

JANUARY 20, 1991

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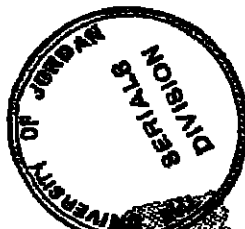
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Soviet forces seize Latvian ministry

RIGA, Soviet Union (R) — Soviet special forces, in a new operation against Baltic separatist governments, seized the Latvian Interior Ministry in Riga Sunday after a fierce gun battle in which at least four people died. Latvian radio and a member of the Baltic Republic's parliament, Valdis Stein, said hospitals reported four dead civilians, including a Latvian journalist, and eight wounded in the 90-minute action. As angry Latvians gathered around a park near the ministry just off the historic city's Freedom Street, there was a huge blast elsewhere in the city. It was not clear if this was linked to the assault on the ministry.



Jordan Times

An Independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Jordan: Patriot missiles no threat

AMMAN (R) — The deployment of U.S. missiles in Israel to block Iraqi rocket attacks posed no threat to Jordan, a senior Jordanian official said Sunday. The United States rushed Patriot missiles and crews to Israel Saturday to defend it against Iraqi attacks, prompting fears among many Jordanians the missiles could be intercepted and fall over the Kingdom. The official said Jordan was in no danger because the Patriots could detect the missiles only 12 kilometres from their targets, which meant the interception would occur over Israel. "When the Patriot intercepts the missile it blows it up into bits and pieces in mid-air which reduces its effect," he said.

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Iraq fires Scuds at Riyadh, Dhahran

Allied air assault continues

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ LOBBED three Scud missiles into Saudi Arabia Sunday night, but they were destroyed by three Patriot rockets fired from an allied military base in Dhahran, U.S. and Saudi officials said.

Three hours later, air raid sirens sounded again at the base, and four more Patriot rockets were heard being launched. Seconds later, two explosions were heard in the distance, suggesting they had destroyed more incoming missiles.

A Saudi official said the Patriots fired from Dhahran destroyed two Iraqi missiles. The source, who spoke to the AP on

Two 'strikes' reported

NEW YORK (Agencies) — There were strikes by two Iraqi Scud missiles in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh on Monday, CBS news reported.

The U.S. network said its correspondents in Riyadh had confirmed two missile "hits" in the city. The attack on Riyadh was the first on the Saudi capital after four days of the Gulf war.

"We have no other details," the network said. Residents of Riyadh said at least one missile landed near the Saudi Defence Ministry.

condition of anonymity, said he received the preliminary information from the Saudi military command in Dhahran. However, the source was the first to report the earlier Iraqi missile strikes.

For the second time, journalists, military spokesmen and workers at the Dhahran International Hotel ran to a bomb shelter and donned gas masks. A witness quoted by the AP said the Patriots were launched

from two different sites on the air base and that a military transport plane, which appeared to be approaching for a landing, suddenly aborted its landing and roared off.

In Riyadh, 360 kilometres southwest of Dhahran, AP correspondent Richard Pyle said he heard at least a dozen explosions within 90 seconds. It was unclear if the explosions were incoming missiles, outgoing Patriots, or something else.

One particularly powerful explosion was felt at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Riyadh, across the street from the Saudi Defence Ministry.

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Saddam Hussein

Only a fraction of Iraq's power used until now — Saddam

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein gave a defiant speech to Iraqi people Sunday, saying Iraq would now strike back at the allied air attack after using only a fraction of its forces thus far. Referring to U.S. President George Bush, President Saddam declared: "His defeat will be certain."

The five-minute speech, carried by Iraqi radio and monitored in Cyprus, was the first broadcast address by President Saddam himself since the war started. A previous statement in his name was read by an announcer.

"In the coming period, the response of Iraq will be on a larger scale, using all the means and potential God has given us

and which have so far only been used in part," he said in the nationally broadcast address.

"Our ground forces have not entered the battle so far, and only a small part of our air force has been used," he said. "When the confrontation begins with an all-out battle with all kinds of weapons and arms, the extent of the death in the enemy ranks will increase."

President Saddam said his forces "are fighting with heroism and courage which is unprecedented in the history of war."

Referring to Bush, he said: "the infidel tyrant's missiles and aircraft are being destroyed."

President Saddam said the U.S.-led coalition thought it would be "a war of a few days" but has been forced to recalculate after four days of fighting.

"After a while, (Mr. Bush) will begin to feel frustrated, and his defeat will be certain, God willing."

U.S. government officials have often said a war with Iraq could be lengthy.

President Saddam appealed to Muslims and Arabs to strike against U.S. and NATO interests in the Arab World and elsewhere.

"It remains for us to tell all Arabs, all militant believers... wherever they may be that it is your duty to embark on holy war," he said. "You should target their interests wherever they may be. This is your duty, and you should use it to complement the struggle of your brothers in Iraq."

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Jordan urges halt to war to assess damage, consequences

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday called for an immediate halt to the four-day-old war to enable the world to assess the damage it has caused and the threats it poses as a consequence of attacks on nuclear and chemical facilities.

In an interview with David Frost of TVAM, the Crown Prince also said Jordan, which has a proven record of being a country which honours its responsibility and of contributing to the international community as well as to regional stability, has been paying a high price for its positions for the past 23 years.

Asked what his immediate reaction was to what has been reported as Israeli restraint in retaliating for Iraq's missile attacks on Friday and Saturday, the Crown Prince said:

"I think we are dismayed by the massive attacks first of all on Iraq. The prediction was that the Iraqis will retaliate as come as much as of a surprise as of sadness that the Gulf crisis on the one side and the Palestine (issue) on the other — which everyone said was unrelated — (were) linked by weapons of mass destruction on the one side and by this clear joint security threat on the other. So, I think

that the feeling today is one of sobriety and certainly one of tremendous sadness of the fact that the kind of coverage that we saw in Tel Aviv, which miraculously did not effectively mean that death of people, has also not been applied in Iraq, where over 40,000 tonnes of bombs clearly resulted in many more casualties."

Responding to a suggestion/question that the American-allied forces "promise that they will go for military targets" seems to have been observed, the Crown Prince pointed out that the extent of the massive assaults remained unknown.

"We are a country that is, as (British Prime Minister) John Major said, a non-combatant," he said. "And if you listen carefully to me, I said that we are dismayed by any effect on civilians... I just like to say that I have many requests by anti-nuclear war doctors who said clearly they had appealed to the World Health Organisation and to the multinational force to assess damage to nuclear facilities: Have they resulted in radiation? Damages to chemical facilities: Have they resulted in seepage? We are talking about 17 million Iraqis who have been starved of medicines and largely of foodstuffs for five months."

In reply to other questions, the Crown Prince said:

"We have none of the weapons. We believe in total elimination of these weapons and indeed of many of the conventional weapons that are causing so much damage and the continuation of war in the Middle East. We were half way from a political solution to the crisis. It was not possible in the early days of the crisis, when Jordan achieved the commitment to withdraw and we have opposed war and a military solution from the outset. So let me remind you that there are thousands of nuclear warheads with the multinational forces in the region and this confrontation is escalating horizontally. Already Turkish bases are being used to bomb Iraq, and the consequences are extremely fearful for us all if this continues. That is why we have called for a halt in fighting and joined all those who called for an immediate cessation of hostilities so that we can assess the damage to human beings."

Asked whether Jordan was to go to "implement" the Jordanian parliament's resolution calling on the Arab and Muslim nations to strike at American interests and those of the nations

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Israel 'will hit' Iraq despite Patriots

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Israeli officials denied on Saturday that they had been persuaded not to retaliate against Iraqi air strikes by the hurried dispatch of U.S. Patriot anti-missile missiles and Americans to help fire them.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Sunday that his government has "not given any such assurance to anybody" that it will not retaliate for Iraqi missile attacks on its country. "We will decide when to respond, just how to respond," Mr. Arens said in an interview on the CBS broadcasting network.

Israel's deputy foreign minister echoed Mr. Arens' statements. Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday in an interview on the ABC broadcasting network "we'll very carefully choose" the time, date and method of Israel's reprisal.

An Israeli official in Washington, requesting anonymity, said Israel was prepared to delay retaliation "for the time being" because it was calmed by the Patriots' arrival.

The United States and its allies, many of them Arab states, began air attacks early Thursday against Iraq and Iraqi positions in Kuwait. The fighting began a

day after a U.N. deadline passed for Iraq to remove its troops from Kuwait, which they overran Aug. 2.

The U.S. government said the Patriots arrived Saturday morning in Israel. U.S. Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams told reporters later in the day the first Patriot units "are now operational."

Israel Television showed U.S. soldiers in helmets and combat dress helping Israelis unload the Patriots, which have a proven ability to shoot down Iraqi missiles.

Mr. Williams said the Patriots "will be operated primarily by the U.S. troops who arrived with them. They will assist Israeli defence forces in operating them. We'll clearly work closely together on this."

He said it was the biggest military airlift to Israel since the 1973 war.

The Defence Department also said it was the first time U.S. troops have been "deployed to Israel specifically to assist the Israelis in the defence of their country."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir indicated in weekend contacts with top U.S. officials that "Israel maintains its freedom of

(Continued on page 4)

Hardliners press Iran to drop neutrality

TEHRAN (R) — Hardline Iranian politicians stepped up their pressure on the government Sunday to abandon its Gulf war neutrality and join Iraq in an Islamic holy war against the United States and its allies.

The hardliners called for anti-war rallies and warned that the U.S.-led multinational force would try to subjugate Iran once they had pushed Iraq out of Kuwait.

Former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, leader of the hardline camp within Tehran's clerical hierarchy, told parliament Sunday that it would be a disgrace if Iran chose to stand by and watch Iraq fight it out alone.

"Today the Persian Gulf and countries of the region are burning in the fire and blood created by global arrogance headed by America, this arch Satan," Mr. Mohtashemi said.

"Today the Muslim nations of the region, and particularly the Iranian nation, have a religious duty to rise for a holy jihad in confrontation against the infidel forces of America, and Zionism," the black-turbaned politician said.

On Saturday, Iran's top policy-making group reaffirmed Tehran's neutral stance in the war. The declaration by the National Security Council gained further authority by the rare attendance of supreme leader

Gulf peace initiatives float around

Combined agency dispatches

CHINA WILL continue to seek a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis, Premier Li Peng said in Beijing, and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was on a shuttle in North Africa in a similar mission.

The Communist Party newspaper People's Daily quoted Mr. Li as telling a Japanese delegation that greater efforts should be made to resolve the crisis through diplomatic channels.

"We will, as before, make continued efforts with the international community to seek a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis," Mr. Li said.

His remarks, as quoted, left it unclear if China was planning to launch a peace initiative.

Diplomats said rumours were circulating in Beijing that China and the Soviet Union were in contact over a possible initiative.

China was the only one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council which did not support a key resolution setting a Jan. 15 deadline for the use of force to dislodge Iraqi troops from Kuwait after Jan. 15. Beijing abstained on the vote.

China had close relations with Iraq before its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and was one of Baghdad's major arms suppliers.

In previous statements China has supported calls for a Middle East conference to cover the whole range of Arab-Israeli problems.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Algiers Sunday to discuss the Gulf crisis with President Chadli Benjedid, the official news agency APS said.

Algeria and the PLO have appealed to the United Nations to arrange for a ceasefire in the Gulf, along with Cuba, India, Yemen and the Soviet Union, to allow for a political settlement, APS said.

Quoting diplomatic sources in New York, the agency said "at

the moment, any proposal to the Security Council for a ceasefire would be vetoed by four of the permanent members — the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain."

The Palestinian news agency Wafa said Sunday, Mr. Yasser Arafat had appealed to Western and non-aligned leaders to call for a ceasefire in the Gulf.

The agency said Mr. Arafat had sent messages to French President Francois Mitterrand and British Prime Minister John Major who was asked to convey its contents to Washington.

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Allied hopes of quick victory fade as long war looms

By Giles Elgood
Reuters

LONDON — Early forecasts of a short Gulf war have given way to sober warnings of a long conflict, as Iraq shows no sign of surrender after a massive air bombardment.

British Prime Minister John Major gave the latest indication Sunday that Iraq will not be defeated in a few days as some commentators had suggested.

Mr. Major said: "I would imagine it would be a war of quite a few weeks."

"What is clear is that this continual day and night bombardment of the Iraqi war machine is beginning to damage the destructive capacity it has, and I suspect this period

of the war will continue for a considerable period of time," he added.

Warnings from political leaders were backed up by military officials and defence analysts.

The French armed forces chief of staff, General Maurice Schmitt, said the war could last two to three months.

Francois Heisbourg, director of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, said the air battle alone could go on for another 10 days, and there were suggestions that it, too, could last for weeks.

Bob Hutchinson of Jane's Defence Weekly, an authoritative defence journal, said: "U.S. spokesmen are wise to continue to caution against

euphoria. This is not going to be a short war made to order."

Allied missiles and bombers had been remarkably effective in their attacks, but "there is little evidence that they destroyed the Iraqi air force on the ground."

Even though airfield runways had been cratered by bombing attacks, planes could take off with a reduced payload from a shortened runway.

Mr. Hutchinson said that between 15 and 20 per cent of the Iraqi air force had been destroyed. Military sources have put the damage at no more than 50 of Iraq's 700 combat aircraft, with the rest moved to reinforced shelters in the north of the country.

So far, a full assessment of bomb damage has been hampered by poor weather over the target areas.

Current assessments contrast with optimistic predictions from some allied air commanders before the start of hostilities that for the first time in history air power alone might win a war.

Analysts believe that the allied field commander, U.S. General Norman Schwarzkopf, wants to ensure his air forces have minimised the risk of casualties before he launches his ground troops at Iraq's impressive fortifications on the Kuwait border.

The failure of Iraq's air force to take to the skies in large numbers has led allied commanders to claim a degree of air superiority.

Defence analysts say the allied air force must now concentrate their attacks on Iraq's elite Republican Guard.

This is deployed as a strategic armoured reserve on the Iraq-Kuwait border to lead a counter-attack if the eventual allied ground thrust succeeds in breaking through.

The 120,000-strong Republican Guard is equipped with up to 600 modern Soviet T-72 tanks.

Military sources said it could be difficult for giant U.S. B-52 bombers to destroy them if they have taken up dispersed defensive positions in the desert.

Allied attacks were also expected to be directed against communications links, supply lines and anti-aircraft batteries

in Iraq's front line in Kuwait.

If Iraqi anti-aircraft units were still operating, allied planes would find it difficult to provide low-level support for advancing ground troops.

Mr. Heisbourg said there would be no abrupt cut-off between the air campaign and the land forces advance. As the air battle continued, the allied were likely to use ground troops to keep the Iraqi front line under pressure.

Iraq has built a huge belt of sand "berms" or ridges, anti-tank ditches that can be filled with burning oil, barbed wire and minefields. Tanks are dug in to form defensive strong-points.

"We will see some ground force activity to keep the Iraqis guessing," Mr. Heisbourg said.

The launchers can each fire four missiles within a 24-hour period.

"This is part of Iraq's preparations to fight a 100-day war," said the PLO official, who Al Diyar said had arrived in Baghdad, Libya, from Baghdad Saturday.

The newspaper said that the official had held several meetings with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his top generals before leaving Baghdad.

Al Diyar quoted the official as saying that about 400 Iraqi warplanes were hidden in bunkers in the mountains of Kurdistan in northeastern Iraq.

"These include the most advanced Iraqi bombers, designed to be saved for the post-war era," according to the official.

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PLO says Israel using Turkish bases to hit Iraq

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Sunday that Israeli jets were deployed at Turkish air bases to take part in the conflict.

Yasser Abd Rabbo, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told a news conference Israeli planes had been at bases in Turkey — a member of NATO — since the war broke out last Thursday.

He did not say whether the planes had actively taken part in air raids on Iraq.

"Since the start," the Turkish military bases have received Israeli planes to participate in the aggression against Iraq, Mr. Abd Rabbo added.

Mr. Abd Rabbo said Israel was "supplying information on movements and Iraqi bases in the west of Iraq, near the Jordanian border. There is no doubt that Israel is part of the (U.S.-led coalition's) scenario."

Turkey immediately denied the PLO accusation.

"This is absolutely baseless," Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar told Reuters in Ankara.

U.S. jets launched attacks on Iraqi targets from the Turkish base of Incirlik for the second day running Sunday.

The PLO official appealed to Arab countries supporting the coalition — Syria, Egypt and Morocco — to change sides and join the Iraqi camp. Syria and Egypt have rejected such requests.

Abd Rabbo said the PLO, which was in contact with Iraqi leaders, had formulated a peace initiative to try to stop fighting. "Look for a political solution

that takes into consideration the interests of all the nations of the region, not the interests of the U.S., a few monarchs and isolated leaders who are being dragged behind the U.S. strategy in the region," he said.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Algiers Sunday for talks with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

Algeria and the PLO have appealed to the United Nations to arrange a ceasefire in the Gulf to allow for a political settlement, the Algerian news agency APS said.

APS, quoting diplomatic sources in New York, said any ceasefire proposal would be vetoed by four of the Security Council permanent members: the U.S., Britain, France and the Soviet Union.

Iranian newspapers denounced Turkey's stand on the Gulf war, saying Sunday that Ankara coveted oil-rich northern Iraq.

The English language Tehran Times, which normally reflects government foreign policy thinking, said: "Turkey's de-facto participation in the war against Iraq indicated a dangerous and uncertain turn for the future of the region."

"Today, as long as Iraq maintains its military strength, (Turkey) may not openly get involved in the war, but ... if (the) Iraqi war machine is seriously destroyed, Turkey would capture Kirkuk and Mosul, two important oil-rich cities in northern Iraq, and (it is) something many Turkish rulers have listed in their expansionist desires."

The paper said Iran would not

tolerate any carve-up of Iraq. Another newspaper, the Jomhuri Eslami, said in an editorial Turkey sought to seize northern Iraq to meet its energy needs.

"Turkey during the past several decades has always had a greedy eye on Kirkuk and Mosul in an effort to solve its question of energy supply."

Ankara says it has no territorial designs on Iraq.

U.S. air force planes have been mounting raids against Iraq from Incirlik since early on Friday.

Ankara and Washington have said little about them. A Bush administration official said that Turkish-based planes had taken part in attacks on Iraq and Turkish President Turgut Ozal said Friday U.S. planes "may have gone to Iraq."

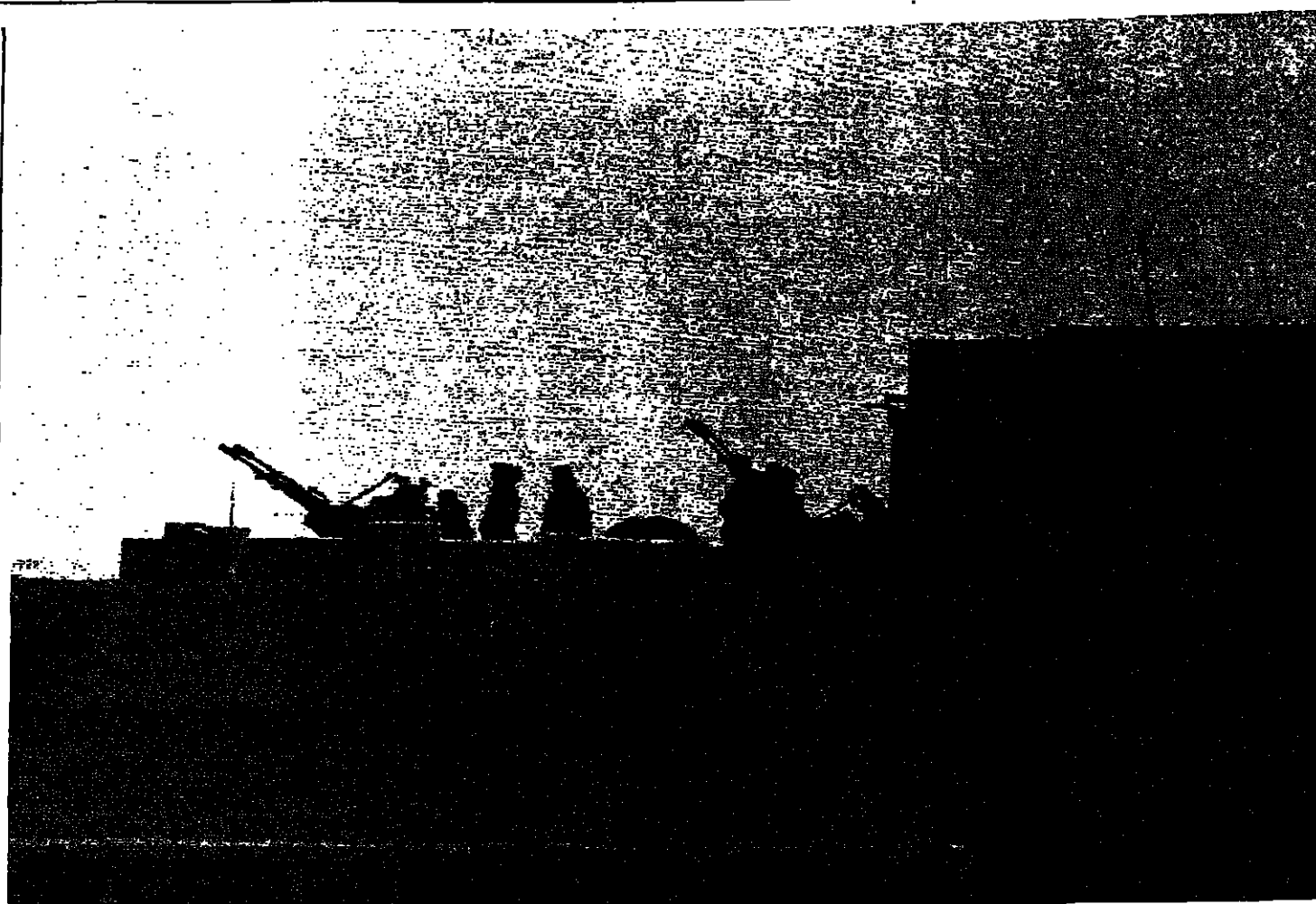
A total of 36 F-15s, F-16s and F-111s took off from Incirlik early Sunday, along with an AWACS plane and only 35 returned.

About three hours later, 10 fully armed jets took off on another sortie.

Spokesmen at the base refused to comment.

The use of the bases is politically sensitive in Turkey. Opposition deputies stormed out of the parliament Saturday, saying the legislature should have been informed of U.S. missions from Turkish territory.

Residents of southeastern Turkey, which borders Iraq, continued to stream out of the region. Hundreds of thousands of people have joined the exodus.



Iraqi soldiers man anti-aircraft guns on the roof of a building in Baghdad (the photographer does not want to be identified)

In battered Baghdad, farewell to normal life and Amex

By Bernd Debudmann
Reuters

AMMAN — "Sorry, sir. We no longer take American express," said the hotel receptionist, his words punctuated by the rumble of heavy explosions. "Things are not what they used to be."

In Baghdad, battered by wave after wave of American air raids, normal life seemed a distant dream and such humdrum chores as settling a hotel bill turned into an obstacle course.

Unlike the Al Rashid, headquarters for most of the international press, the Palestine (formerly Meridian) on the bank of the Tigris River virtually ceased functioning on day two of the Gulf war, along with much of the rest of Baghdad.

The cashier, hollow-eyed from exhaustion, lay huddled under a blanket in the hotel's air raid shelter, next to a young

mother who cradled her son and sang a soft lullaby to try to still his sobs.

The man with the key to the safe deposit boxes was missing and a search party of hotel staff went to look for him, shining flashlights into pitch-dark offices. He was found asleep under his desk.

Baghdad under the bombs provided lessons in how quickly the things one takes for granted disappear in war. Turning a tap and expecting water, for example, throwing a switch and expecting light, picking up a telephone and expecting a dial tone.

The U.S. raids ended all that in large parts of the city. "Have a safe journey," said the cashier, once the bill had been settled in dollars. "Hope to see you back in better times."

How long it will take for better times to return is anybody's guess in Baghdad, a city which seems ill-prepared to

withstand a prolonged assault of the scale and intensity of the first few days.

Halfway into the first week of the Gulf War, life in the city had already ground to a near halt. Few people ventured out of bomb shelters or their homes. Shops were closed, only a few cars moved.

Filling stations were closed, not for lack of petrol but for lack of people to man the pumps or electricity to power them.

In some residential areas of Baghdad, only the chirping of birds pierced a ghostly silence.

The first air assault, which knocked out strategic targets such as the air force headquarters and the Defence Ministry carried out by missiles.

In the first two days of the war, there were no independent reports of civilian deaths and Iraqi statements that heavily populated areas had been struck appeared to be

more propaganda than fact.

But as the air assault continued, the deep rumble of explosions from the outskirts of the capital appeared to come from B-52 raids, used extensively in Vietnam for carpet-bombing that turned huge areas into cratered wastelands.

In such attacks, "collateral damage," the military euphemism for civilian deaths and injury, is almost inevitable.

Until the first missile hit Baghdad, just 18 and a half hours after a United Nations deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait had expired, many Baghdadis refused to believe that their capital would be bombed.

"Bush has said he had no dispute with the Iraqi people," one Baghdadis said as the deadline for war ticked on. "Only the leaders. So how can they bomb the city?"

Toughest security since World War II at Egypt's famed monuments

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

GIZA PLATEAU — Egyptian officials are imposing the toughest security precautions since World War II to protect the pyramids, sphinx and other monuments from possible attacks.

Cairo's three main museums are closed until further notice. Security has been reinforced at all tourist sites across the country. Access is restricted or forbidden, handbags checked, backpacks banned.

From Alexandria in the north to Luxor and Abu Simbel in the south, the police presence at monuments has been increased greatly.

"These monuments belong not just to the people of Egypt but to the world," said a senior tourist police officer, who refused to be identified under interior ministry rules. "What would the world think if we let something happen?"

"We won't."

The rules were implemented so abruptly that tourists and travel agents sometimes found themselves unsure what they could and could not do.

On Sunday at Giza Plateau, a British tourist barred from the Sphinx pointed of Cheops' Pyramid at the top of the hill and asked a tourist police general: "Do you really think I can bomb something as big as that pyramid with a pack of cigarettes?"

The new rules allow tourists to walk around but not to enter the pyramids and other monuments on the plateau. Tourists also can see the monuments from atop camels or horses.

A tourist favourite, the nightly sound-and-light show in front of the Sphinx, has

been cancelled, and visitors are permitted to see the Sphinx only from a distance.

A group of Brazilian tourists were so perturbed at the restrictions that they refused to pay the usual entrance fee of 10 Egyptian pounds (about \$3).

"We paid a lot of money to fly here, and we aren't rich," one said as they leaned into a tourist police van to protest. "We're only teachers from Brazil."

An officer waved them on their way with: "Enjoy yourself. Welcome to Egypt."

British tour guide John Lovett has led Thomas Cook tours to Egypt for 10 years. Saturday morning his tour group of only three stood near the Sphinx, unhappy because a tourist policeman told them they could not ride a camel even though their package tour included it.

An officer who outranked the policeman quickly fixed that problem. He called over three camels. "It's easy today because there're so few visitors," the officer said.

This time last year, more than 2,000 tourists wandered the pyramids area each day. Saturday morning, there were 55 foreigners and a handful of Egyptians and other Arabs.

Egyptians love the plateau and normally visit in droves. But with a potential for attacks, the tourist police officer said, "at the moment it's difficult for Egyptians to be allowed access to the plateau. For Arabs, it's very difficult."

"I think it's stupid to keep people from these monuments because they're so big," Lovett said.

Anyway, he said, Egypt's safe.

"We're having a wonderful time," Lovett said. "It's just

that people don't want to come. They see the map and think Egypt is next to Kuwait."

Lovett said the new rules are causing tour guides to make some impromptu schedule changes.

"Okay, the museums are closed," he said. "I'm going to take my group to the cemeteries of Al Alamein instead."

That is the site of the crucial desert battle that in 1942 turned back the Nazi advance just 240 kilometres north of Giza plateau. Then, wartime security precautions for the monuments included constructing a brick brace beneath the Sphinx's chin, which stayed until the war's end.

Syrians

(Continued from page 1)

has contributed troops to the U.S.-led coalition based in Saudi Arabia.

Many ordinary Syrians were delighted when Iraq attacked Israel with missiles over the weekend.

While the state-run media was attacking President Saddam, some Syrians were calling him a hero because he had acted on his threats to attack Israel.

Two Palestinian groups based in Damascus have announced their backing of Baghdad and urged worldwide retaliation against U.S., Israel and Western interests.

A major Muslim fundamentalist group, one of the largest opposition bodies in Egypt, urged President Hosni Mubarak Sunday to quit the anti-Iraq coalition.

It condemned "aggression against the Iraqi people" by the U.S.-led multinational force.

U.S. arranging military airlift for some Americans

DHAHRAN (AP) — The State Department said Saturday it was arranging a military airlift for Americans who want to flee northern Saudi Arabia and the nearby island emirate of Bahrain.

The announcements, by the consulate in Dhahran and the U.S. embassy in Bahrain, came a day after an incoming Iraqi Scud missile was destroyed over Dhahran, a coastal city in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province 320 kilometres south of the Kuwait border.

It was not clear when the evacuation would begin. "The U.S. military must determine the best time to transport civilians safely out of the Gulf region," the Dhahran statement said.

There have been no commercial flights out of the area since the war began, and flights that did get out before hostilities erupted were jammed. Many scheduled flights were cancelled because of war jitters and soaring insurance premiums.

An estimated 8,000 Americans are in Dhahran, a major staging

area for the U.S.-led military action aimed at driving Iraq from Kuwait, many of them workers at the government-owned Saudi Aramco Oil Co. About 600 Americans are in Bahrain. The island, also being used by the anti-Iraq air and naval forces, is connected to Dhahran by a 20-kilometre causeway.

One U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said safety was not a concern in the Saudi capital of Riyadh and other areas outside the oil-rich Eastern Province. Riyadh is considered at the far end of the range of Iraq's modified Scud missiles.

The statements did not urge Americans to leave, and the Bahrain announcement said the State Department considered the island safe. Officials said the airlift was being arranged because Americans had no other way to leave the region.

Under strict Saudi labour laws, foreign workers here on contracts must give a 30-day notice before leaving their jobs. Those who fail to do so often lose deferred wages and benefits.

U.S. to press allies for more of Gulf war costs

NEW YORK (R) — The United States is expected to press its allies to pay more of the costs of the war against Iraq. U.S. officials said

"Burden-sharing and aid to the front-line states is on the agenda," one official said of a two-day meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from the leading industrial nations starting Sunday.

Attention is likely to focus on Japan and Germany, neither of which has contributed militarily to the U.S.-led drive against Iraq, but both of which depend on Middle East oil to run their powerful economies.

The two-day meeting brings together finance ministers and central bankers from the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan — the so-called Group of Seven.

The Gulf war and its impact on the global economy are likely to dominate the meeting although other issues, including the Soviet economy and the U.S. dollar, are on the agenda. Analysts reckon Washington

is shelling out more than \$500 million a day for its attacks against targets in Iraq and Kuwait.

That is money the United States, with its burgeoning budget deficit, can ill afford. And the cost of the war could double to \$1 billion a day if U.S.-led Arab and Western forces launch a ground assault, the analysts say.

U.S. lawmakers have criticised Japan and Germany for not doing more to help the Gulf war effort.

Japan, which has already pledged \$2 billion to support the allied forces, has signalled that it is willing to do more.

"Since we're faced with a war situation, it's only common sense that it will be more than before," Japanese government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto told a news conference Friday.

An unconfirmed report in the Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun Saturday said Tokyo would pledge \$5 billion to the U.S.-led forces at the Group of Seven meeting.

Pakistan's Gulf role brings problems at home

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Pakistan government faces mounting protests over its support for the United States in the Gulf, but public response to the war in other Muslim nations in Asia has been muted.

Angry demonstrations against U.S. involvement have rocked Pakistan's cities for several days and the venom is now being directed towards the government as well.

In other predominantly Muslim nations — Bangladesh, Indonesia and Malaysia — fundamentalist religious groups have stayed largely neutral and governments have kept the lid on demonstrations of support for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

But Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government has been attacked, even by some of its political allies, for its decision to send 11,000 troops to Saudi Arabia.

It has responded by expelling an Iraqi diplomat accused of fomenting protests, detaining a pro-Iraq journalist for 12 hours, shutting schools and colleges in one province, and banning the sale of President Saddam Hussein's portrait in Karachi.

The government has launched bitter verbal attacks on President Saddam, contrasting with the mood on the streets where pictures of the Iraqi President in military uniform, or kneeling in prayer, are a common sight.

Political analysts say the protests could threaten Mr. Sharif's Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), which routed former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in elections last October.

The right-wing Jamaat-Islami religious party, one of nine parties forming the IDA, demands the withdrawal of Pakistani troops from Saudi Arabia.

In Indonesia, Asia's largest Muslim nation, public and press comment on war in the Gulf has been restrained. There have been few reports of violence.

Indonesian leaders are trying to take a neutral line as possible while complying with U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Try Sutrisno has urged Indonesians to stay calm and not put national stability at risk. He did not refer to any specific group, but the government has long regarded Muslim fundamentalists with suspicion.

Malaysian police pre-empted mass protests by Islamic groups on Jan. 18 by banning anti-war demonstrations. Several peaceful protests had previously been held outside the U.S. embassy.

Islam is Malaysia's official religion and Muslims comprise just over half the population of 17 million. They seem generally sympathetic to Iraq, although their leaders do not condone its invasion of Kuwait.

On Sunday, the government banned rallies and marches. Police guarded roads leading to embassies.

Small groups of pro-Iraq demonstrators have hurled stones at the U.S., Saudi Arabian and Egyptian embassies in Dhaka over the past two days.

On one occasion they burned effigies of U.S. President George Bush and attacked the American Club and a Saudi Arabian school before police dispersed them with tear-gas.

Other Bangladeshis, including some who lost their jobs in Kuwait, have demonstrated in support of the U.S.-led forces in the Gulf.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:40 Programme review
21:50 Local programmes
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Camorra
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 The Golden Girls
21:10 The Keepers
22:00 News in English
22:30 Derrick

PRAYER TIMES

05:11 Fair
06:32 (Sunrise) Duhla
11:46 Dhuhr
14:36 Asr

CHURCHES

17:00 Maghreb
18:21 Isha

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Assuan International Church Tel. 811295

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of

Metecology.

It will be partly cloudy with expected

showery rain and winds will be westerly

moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly

cloudy with northerly moderate wind

and calm sea.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 4 / 12

Aqaba 10 / 20

Deserts 3 / 13

Jordan Valley 11 / 21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

man 14, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings:

Amman 47 per cent, Aqaba 35 per

cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Farouq Hussain 786680

Dr. Jamil Tarif 794710

Dr. Mufred Tannous 844480

Dr. Mohammad Abu Mahfouz 793344

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asoma pharmacy 637025

Nairokh pharmacy 623672

Al Salami pharmacy 626730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmiciani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Maan Barqawi (—)

Al Shama' pharmacy 275825

ZARQA:

Dr. Rabea Atallah (—)

Khalifah pharmacy 785417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police

843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Evacuee flood seen taking its own time

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An expected human wave from Iraq and Kuwait failed to materialise at the Jordanian border post by Sunday, two days after the Kingdom reopened its northeastern frontier for war refugees.

Around 3,000 Egyptians, several hundred Sudanese and a few other Arabs and non Arabs were the arrivals between Friday and Sunday midnoon, border officials said. The figures do not include Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese nationals.

International relief agency officials who had been braced to handle as many as 6,000 to 8,000 arrivals every day said they were puzzled by the trickle that has come through.

Jordanian expatriates who arrived here late Saturday said it appeared that many foreign residents of Iraq were not aware of the Jordanian decision to reopen the border Friday, nine days after closing it.

The Jordanian decision was announced about 30 hours after the American-led allied forces launched war on Iraq with a massive air strike on the capital and targets in several areas.

Officials and emergency situation experts said they could see several reasons were seen behind the relative calm at the Ruweisah post in the northeast.

Among the theories forwarded were:

— Communications had broken down shortly after the allied assault began, and this had rendered it very difficult to spread word in any broad level that the border with Jordan was reopened;

— Fears are high that travellers to the border could be exposed to air attacks during the 600-kilometre trip;

— Price of fuel has gone too high for many of the penniless Asian and other expatriates in Iraq and Kuwait to hire vehicles;

— Many of the 1.2-million-strong Egyptian and 120,000-strong Sudanese communities are farmhands married to Iraqi women and have settled down in Iraq with little contact with their homeland.

— "They may not find any reason to flee as long as their lives are not directly threatened," said a Jordanian who frequently travels to Iraq on business trips.

— Thousands of Baghdad residents have fled to the desert away from the capital and now in the process of returning. Therefore, it would take some time before they manage to pull themselves together and contemplate leaving the besieged country.

— Civilian casualties in the

allied air raids have been surprisingly low, considering the intensity of the bombings, and this could have encouraged many to remain.

"If these theories are right, then we need not expect any massive flow until the war touches the ground," said a senior international relief official referring to reported plans for a ground offensive as the next phase in the allied strategy to dislodge the Iraqi army from Kuwait.

"But such a ground offensive could take weeks to materialise," he commented, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Figures available to the Jordan Times indicated that around 2,100 evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait remained in Jordan Sunday evening. These included 962 Vietnamese, 432 Sudanese, 60 Indians, 58 Bangladeshis and seven Sri Lankans.

Mohammad Yahya Maroofi, chief of mission of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), said IOM was trying to find alternate means to send the evacuees home in the absence of regular airline flights to and from Amman.

In addition, 550 Egyptians also remained here awaiting ferry trips home across the Red Sea from Aqaba. The transit of Egyptians through Jordan is covered under an arrangement between the Cairo and Amman governments.

Also remaining in the Kingdom are 456 Somali nationals who applied for refugee status with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) since their arrival here in August.

Some of them are housed at a transit camp at Azraq, 100 kilometres northeast of Amman, while others are accommodated in apartments and hotels in and around the capital.

The initial ground for the Somalis' approach to UNHCR was that they belonged to clans opposed to the regime of President Mohammad Siad Barre in Mogadishu in the ongoing revolt and therefore faced persecution if they return home.

But prospects for their return home have brightened in view of the revolt gaining the upper hand. The rebel United Somali Congress is now controlling most of the country.

There are also a handful of Ethiopians and Liberians who remain in Jordan after approaching UNHCR for asylum.

Jordan has an unblemished record of respecting the code of political refuge by not repatriating anyone to any destination against his or her wish, according to UNHCR officials.



AIRING ANGER: A group of Jordanian women Sunday staged a sit-in near the American Embassy to protest the American aggression on Iraq. The women carried placards and shouted slogans denouncing the Zionist attack against Iraq and rejecting foreign intervention in Arab affairs (Petra photo)

U.N. officials thank King, government, parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heads of United Nations agencies operating in Jordan Sunday called on the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdul Latif Arabiyat and briefed him on their services and duties in the current adverse conditions.

They also expressed appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's nation-wide address last Tuesday in which he voiced Jordan's readiness to give full protection to foreign nationals in Jordan and lauded parliament's help to United Nations agencies to help them carry out their operations in Jordan.

Arabiyat said Jordan appreciates the role of the United Nations organisations in their humanitarian assistance and social and educational services.

He said that Jordan was keen on retaining strong and unique relations with world organisations, but parliament had reservations about the Security Council whose latest series of resolutions were exploited by

the super powers to achieve their own selfish interests.

Arabiyat stressed that Jordan was giving due care for and respect to all foreign nationals and international organisations and diplomatic missions operating in Jordan, and that Jordanian people would remain hospitable to foreigners as ever.

The Jordanian people, Arabiyat added, realise the role played by the United Nations organisations in the Kingdom and are willing to fully cooperate with each one of them to achieve the aspired success.

The delegation included United Nations Development Programme Director-General Ali Aqqa, and heads of United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Relief and Works Agency as well as the liaison officer at the United Nations truce supervision organisation and the head of the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation.

Arabiyat earlier sent a cable to the speaker of the French

national assembly expressing Jordan's shock at France's involvement in military operations against Iraq.

Franco-Arab relations have always been marked with cordiality and understanding, and the Arab and French people have always maintained strong economic and social ties, said Arabiyat in his cable.

"What deepened and increased the Arab people's feelings of bitterness is the approval accorded by the French national assembly allowing French forces to launch aggression on Iraq," said Arabiyat.

He said that common French-Arab interests should prompt France to pull out its forces from the Gulf and use its international influence to solve the issue peacefully.

Arabiyat also Sunday sent a cable to His Holiness Pope John Paul II calling on him to intervene and stop the Gulf war so that the problem can be settled through peaceful means.

Hundreds of evacuees arrive in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 228 evacuees crossed into Jordan through the Ruweisah border post near the Jordanian-Iraqi border Sunday, according to a spokesman for the Public Security Department (PSD).

The spokesman said that crossing both ways through Ruweisah was far slower in level than those of the past months following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

But according to the spokesman, the police and other concerned authorities at the border post have taken all necessary arrangements for receiving the evacuees coming from Iraq and Kuwait and settling them in camps prior to their repatriation

in cooperation with the international organisations.

The evacuees were allowed in following a general agreement concluded between Jordan and the concerned international organisations which pledged to "cover the whole cost of food, transport and medical services for the evacuees en route to their homeland."

In Aqaba meanwhile, arrangements have been made for receiving evacuees on their way to Egypt, Sudan and Yemen.

A statement in Aqaba said that evacuees began arriving at the port city where camps were pitched to house them before they can be repatriated by air

and sea. The camps have been fully equipped to house Sudanese, Egyptians and Yemenis, the statement noted.

The Civil Defence Department in Aqaba said its centres were operating 24 hours a day providing first aid and other necessary services in emergency cases to all evacuees.

In Amman, Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) President Ahmad Abu Qoura said that he received messages from the Red Cross societies of Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland expressing readiness to help the JNRCS carry out its humanitarian mission under the present circumstances.

Government steps up effort to stop war

Senators slam U.S. and its Arab allies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian government is currently holding consultations with numerous Arab and Islamic nations to reach a formula through the United Nations Security Council to halt the ongoing war in the Gulf and end the aggression on Iraq, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masaadeh announced Sunday.

Jordan is seeking a peaceful solution for the Gulf issue; and it will be cooperating with other states to achieve that goal as soon as possible, Mr. Masaadeh said in a statement to the Upper House of Parliament.

The minister voiced appreciation of the Jordanian people's contributions to the Peoples' Army and urged citizens to offer donations to the nation's efforts to deal with the present emergency situation through a special committee which has been set up to operate in coordination with provincial governments.

Reviewing the civil defence department's activities, Masaadeh said that nearly 130,000 Jordanian citizens have received training in civil defence operations over the past four months to help deal with any emergency.

The minister gave his remarks after several House members made speeches tackling the present situation in the Gulf.

The Senate approved of a proposal submitted by House member Ahmad Obeidat calling on the government to summon the ambassadors of Syria, Egypt, Turkey and Pakistan to obtain clarification from their governments about their positions with regard to the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq.

Senators who addressed the session Sunday heaped scorn on Arab leaders allied with the United States in the war against Iraq.

"Shame on the Arab Nation and its leaders who are only standing and watching the onslaught against Iraq," said Nawaf Al Qadi, an independent bedouin member of the 40-seat Senate.

"I urge the Arab Nation to rise against these treacherous Arab leaders and crush them," he said, adding that Iraq had always defended the Arab World against aggression and had sent troops to help Syria during the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

The Senate called Sunday for a halt to hostilities and a negotiated settlement. A resolution by the Lower House Friday branded the United States a "Great Satan".

The Senate voiced support for Iraq and said the U.S.-led attack was aimed at destroying its military capabilities, continuing Western oppression of the Palestinians and Arabs and controlling Arab wealth.

Pro-Iraq feelings are running high in the Kingdom and the Senate speeches reflected popular anger against Arab countries allied with Washington.

Hammad Al Farhan, a leading Arab nationalist, said the aim of the attack on Iraq was not to liberate Kuwait but to impose Western hegemony on the region.

"The assault is launched from an Arab country and under Arab cover and I find it very hard for Arab history to wipe out the names of those leaders who collaborated against their nation," he said.

Amin Shukeir, a leader of the pro-Iraqi Baathist Party in Jordan, said anti-Iraq Arab leaders had become tools in the hands of enemies.

"Where is Syria in all this and what is it doing?" asked Ali Abu Nuwwar, a former armed forces chief of staff.

"Syria should pull its troops of the Western coalition army and stand by Iraq in the face of America and Zionism," said Ishaq Al Farhan, a leading mem-

ber of Jordan's powerful Muslim Brotherhood.

Following the session the Senate issued a statement voicing absolute support for the Iraqi heroic stand in the face of American aggression and calling on the Arab and Islamic nations to rally to the aid of the Iraqi people to thwart America's drive to impose hegemony on the Arab Nation.

The Senate statement expressed support for His Majesty King Hussein's call on the international community to take speedy measures for halting the war and open the way of serious efforts to solve the crisis peacefully.

The American aggression on Iraq came at a critical moment in the Arab Nation's history, and at a time when the Iraqi military and scientific power was growing in strength and intensity giving support for the Arab and Islamic renaissance, the statement noted.

But, it said, the United States was able through influencing the Security Council to impose hegemony on the Council's resolutions at a time when the Soviet Union was absent from the world political scene, and has succeeded in imposing a blockade on Iraq in collaboration with its allies and the enemies of the Arab Nation.

The statement said: "The Upper House of Parliament in Jordan strongly condemns the barbaric onslaught by U.S. President George Bush against the Iraqi people and the Arab and Islamic rights and interests." It continued that U.S. actions contradict the basic human rights and the principles of peace and security.

The statement expressed deep pride in the heroic stand of Iraqi people and urged all Jordanian citizens to contribute actively towards the national effort under the present circumstances and help with the national mobilisation in support of the government's endeavours.

occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon was regarded as an aggression that "legitimises an Arab response at any time... then we must consider the October war to liberate the Golan Heights as an aggression because Syria started the war."

Describing the intifada as an ongoing sixth Arab-Israeli war, Dr. Fank asked "does Syrian information minister call the Palestinian intifada aggression against the Israeli (defence) forces because the Palestinian people started it?"

Abdul Rahim Omar, in a column also in Al Ra'i, wrote: "Those Americanised Arabs seem to have forgotten what they used to preach about imperialism, Zionism and liberalism... those responsible in Syria must have forgotten that they were the masters of rhetoric from behind microphones, leaders of the liberation battles over the air waves and inventors of the idea of strategic balance with the Israeli enemy."

"If Syria says no Arab state should start an attack against or provoke Israel, then how do the rulers of Damascus intend to liberate Palestine, and if you will, the Golan, without attacking or provoking Israel?"

He said that before Mr. Salaman's statement, Israel's

working, within its resources, to provide these hospitals with opticians and orthopaedists.

The minister visited the health department in the North Shouneh district and was briefed on the emergency plan, which calls for mobilising four health centres for the purpose of performing first aid and evacuation of injuries.

In South Shouneh, the minister met with Lower and Upper House members and hospital staff and discussed with them the emergency preparations in the district.

The minister called on all hospital personnel to make every possible effort to provide the best services to the citizens.

The South Shouneh mayor offered one of the municipality's cars for use by the hospital in emergency.

The minister also visited Maaddi health centre in Deir Alla.

Syria under fire in Jordan press

By Ghadeer Taber
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian newspapers launched a scathing attack against Syria Sunday after Damascus indicated that Iraq's missile strikes on Israel did not change Syria's role in the multinational coalition against Iraq.

In the first criticism of its kind against Syria since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, columnists assailed Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salaman's statement that Damascus would fight alongside Iraq against Israel, only if Tel Aviv attacked first.

Syria, still technically at war with Israel, earlier said that it would defend any Arab country, even Iraq, if Israel enters the Gulf war.

"The problem is that until recently, Syria branded the U.S. as an imperialist and described Israel as a Zionist entity and (Yitzhak) Shamir as the terrorist prime minister of Israel," Columnist Fahd Al Faneh wrote in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i. "What has happened to make Israel a recognised state that no one should attack even if it occupies the lands of three Arab states, including Syrian land?"

He said that before Mr. Salaman's statement, Israel's

Mohammad Jayousi predicted the Arab leaders participating in the anti-Iraq coalition "will fail."

Arafat Hijazi, writing in Sawt Al Shaab, echoed the same theme and said the people of Syria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt will inevitably turn against their regimes to become the real force behind Iraq.

"The Saudi, Egyptian and Syrian people will lead the Arab and Islamic people behind Iraq after it has humiliated Israel," Mr. Hijazi said.

The attack on Syria in the Jordanian press coincided with Syria's escalation of its media war against Iraq. State-owned Syrian newspaper Sunday described Iraq's missile attacks against Israel as "absurd theatrical movements" aimed at engulfing other Arabs in the "horrible" crisis.

"If the Iraqi president is determined to fight on, betting on reshuffling the cards through firing a few missiles on Israel... then his bet is definitely a lost one," Al Thawra said Sunday.

In an editorial, Al Thawra asserted that Iraq's President Saddam Hussein "was defying the Arab, Muslim and international worlds in a blustering arrogance only present in a phenomenon of megalomania."

Minister inspects Jordan Valley hospitals

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Adnan Al Jaljoui Sunday inspected hospitals in Jordan and South Shouneh and was briefed on the preparations made by the two hospitals to deal with any emergency. The minister voiced satisfaction with the level of arrangements made, saying that "such arrangements would meet the needs of the region in normal and emergency situations."

Jaljoui said the ministry was

working, within its resources, to provide these hospitals with opticians and orthopaedists.

The minister visited the health department in the North Shouneh district and was briefed on the emergency plan, which calls for mobilising four health centres for the purpose of performing first aid and evacuation of injuries.

In South Shouneh, the minister met with Lower and Upper House members and hospital staff and discussed with them the emergency preparations in the district.

The minister called on all hospital personnel to make every possible effort to provide the best services to the citizens.

The South Shouneh mayor offered one of the municipality's cars for use by the hospital in emergency.

The minister also visited Maaddi health centre in Deir Alla.

College for engineering accredited

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Higher Education announced Sunday that the Amman College for Engineering has been transformed into a fully fledged university college for applied engineering and will award its graduates BSC degrees.

The Council for Higher Education (CHE) has taken this step in order to provide the country with applied engineering personnel who are in demand at present in Jordan and abroad, a senior ministry official said.

Graduates of the new college will automatically be recognised by and registered with the Jordanian Engineers' Association (JEA), the official said. The new college, the official noted, is offering courses in branches of applied engineering which include electromechanics, air conditioning, refrigeration, central heating, chemical industries, computers, electricity, road and bridge construction and treatment of waste water.

delay in the completion of the higher education law which is still pending approval by the Lower House of Parliament.

He noted however, that the Ministry of Higher Education can see no obstacle in the way of the training courses and students will be able to follow their courses on schedule and according to the set timetable.

He said that the various facilities and laboratories and workshops for applied engineering training were installed in the 1989-90 academic year.

Committee proposes two-week ceasefire

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The committee of Arab-Americans against U.S. intervention in the Gulf Sunday called for an immediate ceasefire lasting for at least two weeks in the four-day old Gulf war to make way for negotiations to replace violence.

The call was made at a press conference held by Dr. Mohammad Saad, chairman of the newly formed committee. Dr. Saad, who has visited Iraq and Kuwait at least twice since Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, said he believed that the ongoing military conflict would expand and engulf other Arab and Muslim countries supportive of Iraq.

"These countries," he said, "will send troops to fight against the American led coalition in the Gulf and Muslims would stage a holy war against foreign intervention in the holy places."

"The committee against the U.S. intervention in the Gulf has agreed that the only way to solve

the Gulf crisis is to halt the war for two weeks in order to give peace a chance and to pave the way for negotiations. Some people may say that it would give President Saddam Hussein a chance to regroup, but then President Bush would have enough time to get out of the 'messy box' he put himself into," Saad, who resides in Ephrata, Washington state told the conference.

Saad was in Iraq and Kuwait when the war broke out and also during the pre-war crisis. While reports were issued on the "atrocities" Iraq was inflicting on the Kuwaiti citizens, Saad told the press conference that "I went around to see if the reports had any credibility." As a physician, he said, "I conducted interviews with doctors and other staff at Kuwaiti hospitals and found the reports were baseless."

According to reports, the Iraqis cut off water supplies to hospitals, stole incubators from Baghdad from Kuwait, looted

houses and countless other offences.

"I was there and it is not true," said Saad. He added that "Amnesty International report was very political and American President (George Bush) seized this opportunity to launch a war against Iraq."

Saad pointed out that one of the problems between the Arabs and the West was a cultural one.

"Iraqi President Saddam Hussein may not understand the West but Bush understands less." When Bush says "kick him (Saddam) in the ass" and "I had it with Saddam Hussein" it becomes a personal vendetta, it is very insulting, Saad asserted.

Asked about the linkage of the Palestinian question, Saad said that "this issue would always be linked no matter what anyone says." The ones pushing for the United States to go to war were the Israelis. "In the United States, the people against the Gulf war were the Christians, it was only pro-

Israelis who were for the war," Saad affirmed.

The press conference, intending to show the other (Iraqi) side of the crisis, brought outrage from the foreign media attending the conference.

One apparently American journalist stood up and asked "are you saying you support Saddam. Are you saying Americans have double standards?"

The extent of sniggering and murmurs from the audience and with the limited English language capability Saad had, he was left unable to answer journalists' criticism.

The conference blew out of proportion however when one Jordanian citizen took the initiative to inform the foreign media that "since you do not know about the ethnic groups in Iraq, let me tell them to you."

The bickering went on until it was abruptly broken off by a journalist asking to see the video tapes which were not seen by many journalists who had lost interest by then.

Jordanian unionists describe steadfastness of Iraqi people

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of the central council of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions, Mohammad Samih, and secretary of the General Services Union, Ahmad Al Khudari Sunday affirmed that the Iraqis were determined to secure victory through safeguarding their national front, increasing production and defending their country.

Samih and Khudari, who were in Baghdad on Jan. 17 when war broke out, said the moral of the Iraqi people was very high and that people were dancing in the streets in expression of their longing for the great battle.

They said life was normal in Baghdad and people were going

to their work without disruption. Production has increased because workers wanted to contribute to the battle by enhancing their work, Samih and Khudari noted.

Khudari said that trade unions had formed working and emergency committees in work sites to deal with any emergency. He added that hotel owners were ready to put their hotels at the disposal of the committees for that purpose.

Samih, Khudari and 95 other Jordanians took part in a peace march organised in Baghdad last week. They carried with them medical supplies.

Also returning to Amman Friday were some Arab women

who were aboard the peace-ship (Jbn Khaldoun), which carried milk and medicine to the Iraqi children.

The ship, which was intercepted and exposed to harassment by the U.S. Navy, had 320 women on board. The women came from 12 Arab countries.

Head of the Libyan delegation, Zahra Abu Al Qasem described the suffering of the women aboard the ship, saying that such suffering was only a symbol of the suffering of the Arab Nation.

She expressed dismay at the Arab silence over the bad and barbaric treatment they received at the hands of marines on Dec. 26.

The Arab women have demonstrated courage in the face of harassment they received by the Americans.

She called on Arabs to skip their differences and to unite to repulse the barbaric aggression against the whole Arab Nation.

Head of the Sudanese delegation, Alawiya Mousa, said the U.S. marines broke into the ship and fought with the passengers.

This inhuman treatment clearly exposes the artificial Western civilisation, she added.

Despite all difficulties and problems, the mission has achieved its objectives in exposing the uncivilised manner in which the West dealt with Arab women, she concluded.

Saddam

(Continued from page 1)

President Saddam said anyone taking up the "holy war" against Iraq's enemies could expect to be treated as a prisoner of war (PoW) if captured, in accordance with international conventions, and would be released after the war ends.

He did not refer to reports earlier in the day by Iraqi media that Baghdad television broadcast interviews with several men it said were captured allied pilots.

On Saturday, U.S. officials in Washington summoned an Iraqi diplomat to warn him that Iraq should abide by international conventions in handling any PoWs.

"When the battle becomes a comprehensive one with all types of weapons the deaths on the allied side will be increased with God's help," President Saddam said in the broadcast.

"When the deaths and dead mount on them the infidels will leave and the flag of Allah Akbar will fly over the mother of all battles," he said.

At the end of the address President Saddam called on all Arabs to rise against the multinational coalition.

"I want to say to all Arabs and all believers everywhere that you have a holy duty to wipe out the group of infidels and the bad leadership everywhere and to target their interests, anywhere," President Saddam said.

Here is a partial text of the address by President Saddam.

"Our land forces have not been used in the battle until now and only a fraction of our air forces have been used."

"Our army air wing and naval forces have not been used."

"...They know that the Iraqis will fight and they will fight persistently and continuously."

"We tell all the Arabs, all the believing strugglers... wherever they are to rise to jihad and struggle by targeting the forces of evil, treachery and corruption everywhere and targeting their interests wherever they are."

"This is your duty which should be linked to the struggle of your brethren in Iraq. You will be part of our valiant armed forces through your struggle and the efforts made by the believers, our strugglers."

"And if you are seized by the enemy you will have a reward from God and you will be inevitably released when the war is over according to international laws and conventions on the release of prisoners of war."

"Therefore you would have been pleasing your God and your conscience and you would have been loyal to your principles and values."

"God is Great, God is great and shame to the shameless."

Prince

(Continued from page 1)

taking part in the aggression against Iraq, Crown Prince said:

"Well, clearly the Jordanian Parliament is a reflection of the constituency feeling of many constituents... a unanimous decision of all members of Parliament. I can't judge what they have to say. But let me remind you that there has been some room in all capitals including Western capitals, during the early days of the crisis — I wish that there has been more room — for quiet diplomacy. I wish that the single might in this military option has been pursued could

have been compared with diplomatic initiatives. We feel extremely vulnerable in this country. We do not have weapons of mass destruction, we do not have Americans manning Patriot missiles. We do not even have Stinger missiles, which were kept from us at the time we asked for them from the United States and yet we are not with or against anyone. We are effectively standing on principles, searching for peace, and political solutions, if we are given a chance."

The Crown Prince said that the Jordanians and Palestinians are harmonious in the perception of developments in the region. We are very clear in the fact that over the past several months, when democracy started in Jordan, there has been greater openness than at any time in the past.

"As far as alienating the West, we are different in views and opinions, but we have channels of communication, including this one. If I may say, and I think our credibility is not based on being put in the cupboard one day, and being dusted on the other, but based on the constituency of our policies."

I have noticed with interest Mr. Owens suggesting that the future of the Arab-Israeli affair would be discussed between Mr. Shamir and Mr. Assad following the crisis and referring to a role for the Palestinians. I hope that we can see a regional order developing, not on the basis of friendly Syrians today and inimical Syrians yesterday, or enemy Iraqis today and friendly Iraqis yesterday, but on the basis of transactional thinking and regional solutions. It is only in that way that we can contain the kind of violent statements which have been made, not only in this capital but in so many Arab and Muslim capitals."

The interviewer asked: "Can you reassure us that you and your brother are not going to act on that Jordanian Parliament's resolution to strike at American interests?"

The Crown Prince replied: "Our position is that we will not become a battlefield. We will stand up for our sovereignty and our integrity. We are a responsible and contributing member to the community of states and to regional stability. This has been very clear. We have paid the price for 23 years. We have sought a peaceful negotiation to the Arab-Israeli conflict and today you say that we have alienated the West. Why? Because we have not joined a military coalition. I hope that our Western interlocutors will be consistent with us and the credibility can be maintained."

Initiatives

(Continued from page 1)

The message to Mr. Mitterrand pleaded for the "rehabilitation of political efforts as the only way to a peaceful solution to the crisis, in cooperation with Arab countries and the Security Council."

Similar messages were sent to the European Community, Sweden, Yugoslavia, India and Indonesia.

The Security Council president Saturday handed a Soviet peace proposal and an Indian plan for a ceasefire to the Iraqi ambassador.

Neither plan has the backing of the whole council, and there are serious obstacles to both. Zairean Ambassador Adefo Nzengeya, who presides over the

council this month, met with Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari to discuss the peace proposals some council members are advocating.

After the Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait expired, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said his government would support Iraq's demand that all Middle East problems be addressed if Iraq would announce its withdrawal. Iraq did not show no inclination to leave Kuwait, and the Iraqi government has reiterated several times this week that Kuwait is the 19th province of Iraq, and they will never relinquish it.

The State Department has also announced reservations about Mr. Gorbachev's initiative, which pledged his support for a "mechanism" to solve all Middle East security issues.

U.S. officials suspect that the "mechanism" would be a Middle East peace conference. The United States opposes linkage of Iraq's withdrawal to any other issue and Israel opposes any such conference.

The other peace plan that the Iraqi diplomat received was a proposal for a 48-to 72-hour ceasefire of the U.S.-led allied campaign against Iraq.

Algeria first raised the idea Thursday, and the Indian ambassador discussed it with the Security Council president on Friday.

The United States and Britain, the two most active coalition members, would block the council from amending its Resolution 678, which authorised the use of "all necessary means" to drive Iraq out of Kuwait after Jan. 15.

One U.S. official said on condition of anonymity that the Security Council will not meet formally again on the Gulf crisis until the previous resolutions have been implemented — when Iraq is out of Kuwait and the emir's government returns to power.

Mr. Anbari told the council president that he would convey the ideas to Baghdad, but noted that U.S. bombing of the Iraqi capital has made communications with his government difficult.

Ecuador's ambassador, Jose Ayala Lasso, was to meet the council president Sunday on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, to discuss the views of the 103-nation group on the crisis.

Hardliners

(Continued from page 1)

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Mr. Mohtashemi suggested Iraqis should forget eight years of war with Iraq.

"The issue is not about the past events between Iran and Iraq. American marines and Western crusaders have come to destroy Iraq's war machine first before turning against the Islamic Republic of Iran," he told his fellow deputies.

"Let us live and die with honour. To live under the shadow of America's bayonets is a shame to us. It will be captivity and disgrace to us."

"The fact that some glib or timid individuals think we should not worry about this war and the people should not be concerned is a source of great regret," he said.

The Society of Combatant Clergymen, an umbrella group for clerics, urged Iraqis to take to the streets in protest against the war launched by the United States and its allies with massive

air strikes on Iraq early Thursday.

The group described the war as an "arrogant move to destroy the human and material resources of Muslims and tip the balance in favour of the usurper Zionist regime."

Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, another deputy, told parliament the U.S.-led attack on Iraq was not aimed at liberating Kuwait but striking at Islam.

"We should not leave the Iraqi people standing alone in this battle since if the United States emerges victorious it will not leave the region easily," he said.

Ayatollah Khalkhali became notorious in the West after he appeared on television poking a stick into the burned corpses of American soldiers who died in 1980 after a failed attempt to rescue U.S. hostages in Iran.

But the daily Jomhuri Eslami, abandoning its usual headline stance, blamed Iraq for the war in the Gulf.

"Direct responsibility of starting the destructive war rests with the Baghdad regime. Now the unity within the ranks of the enemies of the global movement of Islam has been shattered and they are facing one another. This is a divine vengeance," the paper said in an editorial.

Jomhuri Eslami said the West was allied with Iraq during its war with Iran and the two sides were facing "divine retribution" for their anti-Iranian acts.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani urged the Islamic community Sunday to try to end the Gulf crisis.

"It is incumbent on all Muslim countries to make efforts to bring an immediate end to the current crisis in the Persian Gulf and improve the situation through cooperation," he told the new Indonesian ambassador in Tehran.

Scuds

(Continued from page 1)

In the earlier Dahrhan incident, neither U.S. Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams nor Saudi officials in Dahrhan could identify the intended target of the Iraqi missiles.

"It's hard to tell precisely where they were aimed," Mr. Williams said in Washington. "The point is they got near Dahrhan and we shot them... down."

Williams told reporters that U.S. officials believed the first Iraqi missiles fired Sunday night carried conventional, not chemical, warheads, and were launched from southern Iraq.

He said "obviously the threat continues... the No. 1 priority is to find and destroy all the Scud sites."

Civil Defence authorities in Dahrhan, an eastern port city on the Gulf, seemed to be caught off guard by the missile attack. In addition to the allied military base, the city is the home of Saudi Aramco, the government-owned oil giant.

Iraq fired up to five battlefield missiles into Saudi Arabia near U.S. marines Saturday but the rockets fell into empty desert and did no damage, military officials said.

"Yesterday marine central command reported that a forward unit was receiving incoming rocket fire," said Colonel Gret Pepin, spokesman for the U.S. central command in the Gulf.

He said Iraq appeared to have fired the short-range Frog missiles.

"There still has been no direct hostile confrontation on the ground," he told a regular news briefing.

Col. Pepin said U.S. A-6 and A-10 jets destroyed the frog launchers.

Colonel Ahmad Al Robayan, spokesman for the joint allied forces fighting Iraq, said the missiles with a range of 70 kilometres carried conventional explosives.

Early, allied forces claimed they have disabled Iraq's four primary nuclear research facilities.

The nuclear installations were hit during the first four days of allied air strikes, and chemical and biological weapons facilities suffered considerable damage, said H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the U.S. commander of Operation Desert Storm.

"I have very high confidence that those nuclear reactors have been thoroughly damaged and will not be effective for quite some number of years," he said on "Face the Nation" an interview programme on the U.S. television network CBS.

As U.S. bombers pounded Iraq with their heaviest raids so far, speculation grew that allied ground forces might soon engage Iraq's army in Kuwait.

Three days into the war, U.S. military commanders were shifting from a relentless air bombardment of Baghdad and military installations in Iraq to a concentrated pummeling of Baghdad's most elite troops in and near Kuwait.

Military officials referred to the shift to bombing Iraqi troops as "softening up the opposition," in advance of a possible land offensive.

American F-15 and F-111 fighter-bombers have begun missions into Iraq from the north at the U.S.-Turkish base at Incirlik (see page 2).

Regular air missions continued from air bases in Saudi Arabia, but were hampered by heavy cloud cover over Iraq.

Despite the U.S. military assertion that 80 per cent of the thousands of air sorties had hit their targets, military analysts noted that Iraq still has a powerful army and still holds the ground in Kuwait.

Iraq's air force has put up only a slight defence, either because the aircraft were hemmed in shelter by attacks on airfields or because their power was being hobbled for use later.

U.S. officials have been warning all week that the low allied casualty count so far could change rapidly once ground combat begins.

In other Gulf developments: Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy has agreed to discuss the wider problems of the Middle East once the war with Iraq is over, a Luxembourg government spokesman said Sunday.

The spokesman said Mr. Levy had spoken by telephone Sunday to Jacques Poos, foreign minister of Luxembourg and current president of the European Community (EC) Council of Ministers.

The two discussed the post-war situation, the spokesman said, adding: "They agreed to discuss solving the problems of the region."

He could not say whether they had specifically mentioned the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

About 100 French women and children flew out of Mauritania Sunday after a week of massive pro-Iraqi demonstrations.

A French diplomat speaking by telephone from the capital Nouakchott said there had been

no threats against them but they thought it safer to leave.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad discussed the Gulf crisis with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Meguid Sunday, officials and diplomats said.

Mr. Meguid, accompanied by Osama Al Baz, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser, arrived unexpectedly in the Syrian capital earlier in the day.

The leader of a Palestinian faction said Iraq's missile attack on Israel punished the Jewish state for its past treatment of Palestinians.

"Firing the Iraqi missiles on Israel is a real feast for the Palestinians and Arab peoples," said Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Syrian-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

"It is also a primary punishment for several years of Israeli aggression on the people of Palestine and the Arabs," said the statement released in Damascus.

Hawatmeh said it was "the mission of the Palestinian people... to escalate the armed struggle from South Lebanon and back the uprising in the (Israeli-occupied) territories."

Two British minehunters have entered the Gulf to reinforce the ability of the anti-Iraq allies to find and destroy mines, a British navy spokesman said.

He said the minehunters Ladbury and Dulverton had joined three British minehunters already in the waterway.

Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi said Iraq would be forced out of Kuwait but saw heavy casualties for the allied forces as a consequence.

"I can't expect (Iraq) is remaining in Kuwait for a long time against this coalition but (it) will bring casualties heavily on this coalition if (it) loses Kuwait," Qadhafi said from Tripoli in an interview with British television.

"I am against Saddam Hussein in Kuwait but I am against this international coalition, this aggression against... innocent people," Col. Qadhafi told Independent Television News.

Col. Qadhafi also said that he would not advocate "terrorism" in support of Iraq.

"No, no. I am absolutely against any kind of terrorism. But there is a difference between terrorism and the just struggle for freedom and for dignity," Col. Qadhafi said.

Egypt has reduced the number of its embassy staff in the Yemeni capital Sanaa to the minimum to protest what it says government-organised anti-Egypt demonstrations.

Ambassador Abdul Rahman

Shamaa and 16 of his staff returned home Saturday in accordance with the decision. Foreign Ministry sources say only nine personnel were left behind in Sanaa to look after the interests of Egyptian workers in Yemen.

The state-owned newspaper Al Gomhuria said Yemeni demonstrators stoned the embassy building and the residence of the Egyptian ambassador in Sanaa for three successive days.

The newspaper did not say when demonstrations took place but said they were organised to protest Egypt's opposition to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The Red Sea state of Djibouti, used by France as a military base, has banned demonstrations over the Gulf war, Djibouti radio reported.

The Interior Ministry said protests which took place on Saturday were "prejudicial to the security and peace of the Republic of Djibouti. And for this reason it is not permitted to hold such demonstrations," the radio reported.

Algeria has warned its nationals not to travel abroad for fear of wave of anti-Arab racism in Europe during the Gulf war, the official daily Al Moudjahid said.

"Considering the present situation, the authorities concerned exhort Algerian citizens to avoid travelling abroad, except in cases of necessity," the paper said citing an official statement.

More than 600 bomb scares have kept New York city police busy since the Gulf war began, officials said.

Several underground train lines have been shut down for up to an hour as police investigated reports of suspicious packages.

"Since the battle was launched in the Gulf there have been about 200 bomb scares a day."

Planes

(Continued from page 1)

capital, the spokesman said the allies had flown more than 7,000 sorties since the start of the war last Thursday.

Twenty-three Iraqis were prisoners as a result of the raids. Besides the 12 originally seized during the attack on oil platforms, had subsequently been captured from rubber rafts after fleeing the platforms.

"Most of them abandoned the oil platforms and were picked up in rubber rafts," he said.

Also Sunday, Iran's news agency reported that Iraqi TV showed two blindfolded men identified as captured U.S. airmen being paraded through the streets of Baghdad.

No other details were disclosed by the Islamic Republic News Agency, and the U.S. De-

fence Department said it had no "knowledge of the incident."

Iranian TV said that Baghdad TV Sunday aired a 20-minute interview with seven allied pilots, giving their nationalities as American, Italian, British and Saudi.

U.S. officials also said a total of 22 allied soldiers — 13 Americans and nine from other countries — have either been killed or are missing in action.

Iraq said that the town of Takrit, birthplace of President Saddam Hussein, was hit by an "enemy" missile Saturday night.

A military communique read on Radio Baghdad did not say what damage, if any, was caused by the missile strike.

The Iraqi leader was originally known as Saddam Hussein Al Takriti but he later dropped the family name that linked him and several other top leaders to the town north of Baghdad.

Iraq also said Saturday allied planes have bombed the Shiite Muslim holy cities of Najaf and Karbala in central Iraq killing several people.

"Enemy planes raided the holy shrines in Najaf on Friday night. The enemy planes also bombed the city of Karbala which left a number of martyrs and destroyed a number of houses," said a military communique broadcast on Baghdad Radio.

Many Iraqis fled Baghdad and other cities to Najaf and Karbala, believing the two most holy Shiite sites would not be attacked.

The Iraqi News Agency later identified one of the captured airmen as marine pilot Major Clive David, 39, whose aircraft was shot down with a surface-to-air missile in Kuwait City.

There is no Major Clive David on the U.S. list of airmen who are missing in action, the AP said.

Iraq identified another of the prisoners as Lt. Jeffrey Morton Zoon, 27, of attack squadron 30. The U.S. lists a Lt. Jeffrey N. Zoon, 28, of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, as among the missing airmen.

The man Iraq identified as Lt. Zoon sent greetings to his parents and sister in the United States, calling on them to pray for peace, INA said. He was quoted in the agency's Arabic language report as saying the U.S. was wrong in attacking Iraq.

A man INA identified as Kuwaiti pilot Mohammad Mubarak Sultan Mubarak purportedly said he feels "miserable for supporting the imperialists, Zionists (Saudi King) Fahd against Iraq."



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Jordan Times

Wimbledon are still a thorn in the flesh for Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Most fans have never heard of Warren Barton but Liverpool will not forget his name in a hurry.

"Warren who?" Before Saturday, when the English Soccer League champions met old foes Wimbledon at Anfield, the name would have brought blank stares and an occasional shrug of the shoulders.

No longer. Signed from fourth division Luton last summer, the 21-year-old defender celebrated his first appearance at Anfield with a goal that ousted Liverpool from the top of the table.

"To score a goal here is unbelievable," Barton said delightedly. "It's the first time I have ever been to Anfield and it's lovely to come here and take in the atmosphere."

He did more than just that. With only nine minutes remaining, his equaliser shattered Liverpool's hopes of staying ahead of rivals Arsenal, who beat Everton 1-0 at Highbury.

Until then, Liverpool had looked sure of victory, with Eng-

land World Cup winger John Barnes putting the team ahead in the first half with a delightful lob over the goalkeeper.

But Barton, despite a sore leg, ended the Anfield celebrations — and raised a huge cheer at Highbury — with a 25-metre free kick that sailed into the corner of the net.

Arsenal now have 51 points to Liverpool's 50 while Crystal Palace stayed third with 45 despite losing their undefeated home record in the league to Norwich, who romped home 3-1.

In Scotland, Rangers kept up their charge towards a third consecutive title with a 2-0 win at Hibernian.

It was the first time this season that a club other than Liverpool, who still have a game in hand, had led the league and was only the second time they had failed to win at home.

"I think we should have won the game," said Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish. "We have only ourselves to blame... we had two or three chances but we

didn't take them."

But if any team was going to spoil Liverpool's party it would be Wimbledon, the rough newcomers who caused a major upset by winning their first league match at Anfield in 1987.

A team with a reputation for the long ball, physical confrontation and a notable lack of football finesse, they also beat Liverpool at Wembley in the F.A. Cup final of 1988.

Arsenal, penalised two points earlier in the season for a mass brawl on the pitch, pretended to be less excited by the top spot and 1-0 win over Liverpool's city rivals Everton.

Paul Merson was the goalscorer in the 48th minute.

"I'm not getting over-excited yet. The only time to do that is when you are top in May," said manager George Graham, whose team are unbeaten in the league despite a series of setbacks.

"It is nice to be up there but there is still more than a third of the season to go," Graham

cautioned.

Former Wimbledon midfielder Vinny Jones also hit the sports headlines Saturday but for entirely negative reasons.

The Sheffield United captain was booked after just five seconds at Manchester City and sent off in the second half. It was believed to be the fastest booking in league history.

Sheffield lost 2-0 and stayed bottom of the league.

Nottingham Forest's England defender Des Walker, who has never scored a goal for the club, was left wondering whether he had scored an own-goal in the 1-1 draw at Southampton.

Forest manager Brian Clough said afterwards: "Walker's goal. Des has still never scored for us at the right end."

But the referee attributed it to goalkeeper Mark Crossley and Southampton said striker Alan Shearer had scored.

"I need it more than Walker — I had only got one league goal before that this season," insisted Shearer.

Becker, Patrick McEnroe reach Australian Open quarterfinals

MELBOURNE (Agencies) — On the first anniversary of John McEnroe's expulsion from the Australian Open Sunday, his younger brother Patrick joined Boris Becker in the quarterfinals of this year's Grand Slam tournament.

Patrick beat Mark Woodforde 6-2 6-4 6-1 in a controlled performance which the Australian left-hander compared with the best of the more talented and temperamental John, missing in Melbourne because of a shoulder injury.

"Patrick played very well, he just came up with all the answers and really outplayed me today," said Woodforde, John's double partner. "He's very confident on court at the moment."

However, Becker is still looking for his tough. He lost his opening service game to qualifier Wayne Ferreira and looked tired following his marathon first round win over Italian Omar Camporese two days ago, the longest match in open history.

The German second seed was happy to slug it out from the baseline for long periods with the 19-year-old South African who showed no fear, especially in a second set tiebreak. But Becker's experience finally prevailed and he won 6-4 7-6 6-4.

The big names in women's tennis continued their untroubled progress towards their allotted semifinal places with top seed Steffi Graf losing one game, French Open champion Monica Seles three and U.S. Open champion Gabriela Sabatini four.

Third seed Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States had it tougher in a 6-3 6-3 win over Belgium's Sabine Appelmans and now meets Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria who beat her 15-year-old sister Magdalena, the youngest player in the tournament, 6-3 6-2.

Ranked 114 in the world, McEnroe has been a revelation on his Australian debut. On Sunday he applied the pressure with no-nonsense tennis of the highest order, based on a double-handed backhand which rarely failed him.

He wavered only once in concentration when leading 3-0 in the second set. After receiving a warning for racket abuse at the change of ends, Woodforde fought back to 4-3 before McEnroe regained control and ran away with the match.

"I'm playing more consistently, the difference between today and my first match is like night and day," said McEnroe. "My goal is to be the best tennis player I can be."

His brother John, once world number one, was expelled from last year's tournament for repeated bad behaviour.

Patrick now plays Cristiano Caratti of Italy who beat Dutchman Richard Krajicek 6-3 6-4 6-7 3-6 6-4. Becker plays Frenchman Guy Forget, the 10th seed, who continued his good run by downing Australia's Todd Woodbridge 6-4 3-6 6-3 6-4.

Eighth seed Zina Garrison lost to Czechoslovakia's Jana Novotna. Seeded 10th, and Soviet Natalia Zvereva, the 11th seed, was beaten 6-3 6-4 by unseeded 16-year-old German Anke Huber.

Graf said she was looking forward to some competition from Novotna in the next round after dropping just 11 games so far. But she is losing no sleep over the match. After her 6-0 6-1 defeat of Czechoslovakia's Katerina Habsudova she went to the beach rather than practise.

The three-times open champion has not lost to Novotna in nine previous meetings.

The unseeded Huber, known as the young Steffi, has recorded her best Grand Slam performance here, but she now meets

Seles. The Yugoslav was back to her destructive best against the crew-cut Catherine Tanvier of France, after a below-par performance in the third round, winning 6-2 6-1. Seles has dropped just eight games in the first four rounds.

Sabatini and Rachel McQuillan almost sent the sun-drenched crowd on centre court to sleep in the first set, making a string of elementary mistakes from the baseline.

Thankfully, the Argentine upped the pace in the second set, winning 6-3 6-1 and ending the hopes of the last Australian left in the two singles draws. Sabatini now plays sixth seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain.

Huber has a big forehead and an even bigger smile.

But one way to make the 16-year-old tennis player frown is to call her the new Steffi Graf.

The win prompted more comparisons with Graf, the world's top-ranked player who hails from the same North Baden region of Germany.

"Steffi is something special,"

Huber said. "I don't like it when people say these things."

Huber says Graf is not her idol and denies there is any pressure on her because of the comparisons.

"I'm still very young and I'm learning so much," she said. "There are many areas of my game I need to improve. Everything, really."

Huber, a solidly built player who moves quickly and purposefully about the court, has eliminated no. 7 Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere, American Pam Shriver and Zvereva on her way to the last eight — her best performance in a Grand Slam tournament so far.

"She hits strong shots all over the court and has good groundstrokes," Seles said. "She's a fighter."

Seles refuses to say whether Huber can reach the top.

"Only time will tell," she said. "She has the potential, but so do I and so does Jennifer (Capriati). Remember, no one is a magician and can say 'she is going to be no. 1.'"

Johnson insists he will regain form

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ben Johnson, still looking to find the form that made him the world's fastest human, insists he will eventually be just as fast without steroids as he was with them.

Johnson, who was stripped of his gold medal in the Seoul Olympics in 1988 for using steroids, is just beginning his comeback effort. He has finished second twice at 50 metres indoors, including Friday night's runner-up finish to Andre Cason at the Sunbelt Invitational.

"A lot of people will think I won't be able to run faster because I was on drugs," Johnson said after clocking a 5.74-second 50 to Cason's 5.69 at the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

"They will soon see they are wrong. I have the same speed as two years ago. I think I can run fast enough to win the gold medal at Barcelona (in the 1992 Olympics)."

Johnson, who had finished second to Daron Council the previous week in his return to track after a two-year ban, has had excuses for both his losses.

He complained after losing last week in Canada, before his adopted countrymen, that he had misjudged the finish line.

This time, Johnson said he was slow out of the blocks because the lanes were too narrow.

Johnson said he wasn't concerned that he is 0-2 in his comeback.

"I know it's going to take a while. I think you'll see the real Ben Johnson pretty soon," he said.

Said Cason: "I have great respect for Ben. He ruled the sprints from 1985 to 1988 and he deserves the media attention he gets. I ran my personal best and I'm very happy with that."

Asked if Johnson looked the same as when he was the world's best sprinter, Cason said, "Ben looks smaller in his upper body. He's toned down a lot."

The use of steroids contributes to muscle mass and Johnson appeared to add considerable upper body strength after the 1984 Olympics, when he won the bronze in the 100 metres. His upper body strength has been credited for helping him to be one of the most explosive starters ever.

Johnson's time Friday was a Canadian national record, beating the 5.75 set by Desai Williams.

The world record is 5.61.

shared by Manfred Kokot of East Germany and James Sanford.

Johnson was greeted by a mix of boos and cheers from the crowd of 12,438 — about 2,000 more than was expected — when he was introduced before the race.

He was mobbed afterward by photographers and reporters, about three times as many as normally cover the event.

The 29-year-old Johnson was clocked in 5.77 in the 50 metres at the Hamilton Indoor meet the previous week, with council winning in 5.75. Cason was fourth in that race.

Johnson claimed afterward that he had pulled up after 50 yards because he mistook the 50-metre finish line for the 50-metre finish line.

Meanwhile Sydney, Australia, Kerry Saxby of Australia set a world best time in the women's 1,500-metre walk Sunday in an invitational track and field meet.

Saxby, who now holds 29 world best or official world records over a variety of walk distances, covered the distance in 5 minutes, 50.41 seconds, beating the former mark of 5:55.3 set by Sada Eidikyte of the Soviet Union.

PSV stays top of Dutch League

AMSTERDAM (R) — Leaders PSV Eindhoven, showing little benefit from a playing visit to India during the winter break in the Dutch Soccer League season, managed only a lacklustre 1-1 draw against Groningen Saturday.

However, the result against their third-placed visitors ensured PSV would stay top this weekend. The Eindhoven team are now three points clear of arch rivals and defending champions Ajax.

Second-placed Ajax, with two games in hand, are at home to SVV Schiedam, 12th, Sunday. The 25,000 crowd at Eindhoven found little to enthuse about, and PSV team chief Bobby Robson, England's former manager, still appears to have problems blending his players into a coordinated unit.

PSV had a narrow escape in the 39th minute as goalkeeper Hans Van Breukelen just saved from Edwin Olde Riekerink, but they seized the lead a minute before halftime when a curving shot from midfielder Erwin Kouman set up a header for Giga Popescu.

PSV's subsequent pressure failed to earn further reward, even when Brazilian striker Romario came on in the 61st minute, and Groningen equalised through Ulrich Wilson in the 76th minute.

Kronberger wins women's ski race

MERIBEL, France (AP) — Petra Kronberger completed a sweep of the weekend races as she won a women's world cup Super-G race.

The Austrian had almost a half-second on the field as she clocked 1 minute, 20.99 seconds on the future Olympic course.

Germany's Michaela Gerg edged France's Carole Merle for second, 1:21.48 to 1:21.49.

Merle had won back-to-back Super-G races on this same course last year.

The Austrian women's team competed after learning of the death of one of the Austrian men skiers, Gernot Reinstadler, at Wengen, Switzerland. Reinstadler died of injuries Saturday after a high-speed crash in a qualifying run.

"I feel sad but life goes on," Kronberger said. "We can't bring him back."

Kronberger also took Friday's downhill to reach the midpoint

of the season with eight wins in 16 races.

It was her 14th career victory and third in a row counting last weekend's slalom in Kranjska Gora, Yugoslavia.

The race was the last women's skiing race before the world championships start in Saalbach, Austria this Tuesday.

Kronberger finished the first part of the season with an overwhelming lead in the overall standings.

She now has 276 points in 16 races with Merle moving into second place with 92 points.

Katja Seizinger of Germany came in fourth in 1:22.14. She was first down on the 1,665-metre course which dropped 498 metres. The run had 36 gates.

Merle came down second and her 1:21.49 looked shaky after several of the following women had better intermediate times.

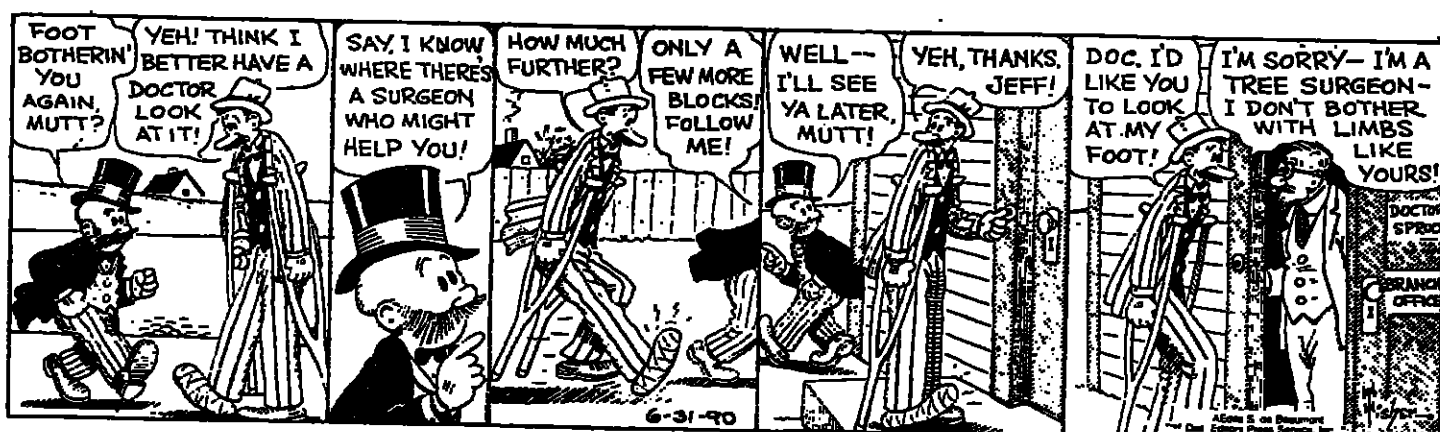
But nearly all went off the course as the speed turned into

costly mistakes.

Austrians Anita Wachter, Veronika Wallinger, Sylvia Eder and Germans Regine Moeslechner and Traudi Haechler failed to complete their run.

Kronberger, starting 14th, managed to control the speed and finished in 1:20.99.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Economy

Lloyd's insurers open Sunday for first time in 300 years

LONDON (R) — The Lloyd's of London insurance market opened Sunday for the first time in its 300 years as the Gulf war sent rates soaring.

Fear that conditions may change quickly means insurers will only quote Gulf rates short term.

"The reason we are open is because we are only quoting rates 24 hours ahead," said Christopher Rome, a leading war risk underwriter. He said he had written a few

contracts Sunday morning and had enquiries from oil platform owners and from shippers looking to load Saudi Arabian crude.

A Lloyd's spokesman said around 200 people were scattered around the Lloyd's "room," which is housed in a futuristic building in the City of London, hub of British finance.

The insurance business began in a corner of a coffee shop called Lloyd's 300 years ago. Today, aircraft as well as ships are insured.

Industry sources said rates for

aircraft hull insurance to the Middle East had risen sharply. Cover for a flight to Tel Aviv was quoted at 2.5 per cent of the aircraft's value compared with one per cent Saturday.

They said insurance rates for tankers to northern Saudi Arabia were as high as seven per cent against 3.5 to five per cent at the end of last week.

Oil industry sources say insurance costs will add some 50 cents to the price of a barrel loaded in the western Gulf.

Yamani: Oil prices could sink to \$12

AMSTERDAM (R) — Oil prices could plunge to \$12 a barrel, former Saudi Arabian oil minister, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, told a Dutch newspaper.

In an interview with *Krant op Zondag* published Sunday, Yamani said the underlying supply situation in the market would eventually force prices lower.

He said that despite the outbreak of the Gulf war increased output from Saudi Arabia and other OPEC members had compensated for the 4.4 million barrels a day of (b/d) of lost Iraqi and Kuwaiti production.

It had also lifted total production by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to 23.5 million b/d.

After a week of wild price swings with a record one-day crash Thursday, the March futures price for North Sea Brent crude, a world benchmark, ended Friday at \$18.20 a barrel. Its lowest level since Iraq invaded Kuwait in Aug.

It shot up as high as \$33.50 on panic buying in the first couple of hours after news of the U.S.-led attack against Iraq. But prices slumped as traders presumed air strikes had removed the threat of Iraq damaging Saudi Arabian oil fields.

Four months ago, Yamani said oil prices might rise to \$60 if war broke out in the Middle East, because prices were then being driven up unnecessarily by oil companies holding on to excessive stocks.

G-7 leaders try to show economy can weather war

NEW YORK (R) — The finance leaders of the world's richest nations appear set to close ranks this week to try to convince nervous investors that the world economy can weather a war in the Gulf relatively unscathed.

"We want to let markets know that whatever happens in the Gulf, it's not going to be an economic disaster," said one official, here for a two-day meeting starting Sunday.

The meeting will give finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations their first chance to take attack stock of the world economy since U.S.-led allied forces attacked Iraq Thursday to force it out of Kuwait.

Although the G-7 — the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan — are set to discuss a range of issues from the Soviet economy to the dollar, the Gulf war will probably dominate the talks. U.S. officials said Washington

is likely to ask its allies, particularly Germany and Japan, to contribute more to the war effort and to the hardest-hit developing nations.

So far, news from the war has been good as far as the global economy is concerned. Oil prices plunged and world stock and bond markets bounded higher last week as fears that the war would damage Saudi Arabia's oil fields dissipated.

If sustained, the steep drop in oil prices should prove a tonic to the slowing world economy by paving the way for lower interest rates and higher consumer spending, economists said.

"The extraordinary decline in oil prices, assuming they stay down, would clearly have a major effect," Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said in a newspaper interview Friday.

But he cautioned against too much optimism, telling the *Wall Street Journal*: "We are still in an unstable environment."

International Monetary Fund managing Director Michel Camdessus is expected to tell finance leaders that the world economy can escape a recession this year if oil prices do not skyrocket.

Officials said the strong economic performance of Germany and Japan will help offset downturns in the United States, Britain and Canada and allow G-7 growth, to average between one per cent and 1.5 per cent this year.

The need to put forward a united front to the markets now that war has broken out will probably persuade G-7 members to temporarily set aside their economic differences.

Those differences arise mainly because the countries in the group are entering different stages of the economic cycle.

The United States, Britain, Canada, France and Italy worry about an economic slowdown and want to cut interest rates. But Germany and Japan, whose economies are still growing strongly,

are more concerned about inflation and do not seem willing to join in any rate cut.

France and Italy have also voiced concerns about the dollar, which has dropped some 20 per cent against the Deutschmark over the past year. They worry the weak dollar will boost U.S. inflation and also make American products super-competitive on world markets.

But Germany and Japan appear untroubled by the dollar's decline, and the United States itself seems a bit divided, with its central bank more concerned than its Treasury Department.

Such differences, however, are likely to be swept aside as G-7 policy makers band together to try to show financial markets that they are in control.

"We're going to be closely working together to maintain stability in markets," a senior U.S. official said. "That's the message that will come from this meeting."

Iran makes big financial adjustment

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's central bank said Sunday it would allow all foreign currency transactions to be made at a free market rate in what amounted to a major devaluation of the rial.

A statement by central bank governor Mohammad Hussein Adeli said hard cash would be sold to travellers and businessmen at fluctuating rates by all branches of Iranian banks.

Asked what this meant, a central bank spokesman said the banks would use the free market rate.

Adeli said the new measures, which are effective when banks reopen Monday, provided the best prospects for foreign investment in Iran.

If the new rules are put into general effect, foreign companies will begin to see Iran as one of the cheapest rather than one of the most expensive places to conduct business.

Adeli said Iranian banks would also provide hard currency for imports of all goods authorised by the commerce ministry without limitation as of Monday.

Gulf war shuts down Indian stock market

BOMBAY (R) — The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) will be closed Monday due to the Gulf war, the bourse's executive director said Sunday.

"We have decided rather reluctantly not to open tomorrow (Monday) ... it is our sincere endeavour to open the market Tuesday," M. R. Mayya said.

"Free trading is impossible and regulations are ineffective in a war situation," he added.

The exchange, which had been on an unprecedented bull run until the end of last year, has been closed since Jan. 15 when the U.N. deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait expired.

The BSE index touched an all-time high of 1,559.40 on Oct. 9 last year before sliding to 1,017.72 last Monday. The index was 778.64 a year ago.

"I believe the market will start stabilising," Mayya said.

"Kerb deals," stock transactions made outside the exchange floor last week, "indicated the market was stabilising and I expected Bombay to rule steady," he said.

One broker said if investors feel the Gulf war will be relative-

ly short then the market will begin to recoup some of its losses.

"The way the market reacts when it opens depends on what is happening in the war at that point in time," broker Hemendra Kothari said.

"It's still too early to predict. But initial indications are that it looks like the war might get over earlier than expected. So I think the market would react favourably," he added.

But others had a bleaker outlook.

"Taxes will likely go up in the upcoming budget and corporate profits will shrink in the coming months," stock broker Anand Dhwani said, predicting the BSE index could fall to 750.

One bright spot appeared at the weekend when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a \$1.79 billion loan for India to shore up its balance of payments position.

India will receive \$777 million under a first credit tranche and more than \$1 billion under the IMF's compensatory financing facility to help pay for the higher cost of imported oil.

Both are five-year loans with an interest of nine per cent.

"The crisis in the Middle East has had severe and widespread effects on the economy," the IMF said.

Egyptian oil prices go down

CAIRO (R) (AP) — Egypt's oil export prices dropped after the Gulf war started and now range between \$16.5 and \$18 a barrel, Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandil was quoted as saying Sunday.

Kandil told *Al-Ahram* newspaper that the new Egyptian export prices reflected the sharp decrease in the world oil market after the U.S.-led allied forces attacked Iraq and Kuwait Jan. 17.

"I followed myself the developments and sudden changes in the world oil markets in the United States, Europe and Asia. Egyptian oil prices on the market were affected by the reductions and for the two past days have ranged between \$16.5 and \$18 a barrel," Kandil told the newspaper.

He did not specify the exact price of each of Egypt's varied crude blends, but said their prices were higher than those of similar blends on the world market.

War signals uncertainty for skittish U.S. markets and ailing economy

NEW YORK (AP) — If truth is the first casualty of war, as a U.S. senator said during an earlier one in 1918, then confidence may be the second.

The opening days of the Gulf conflict demonstrated that market trends can change in less time that it takes for a missile to fly from Iraq to Israel.

U.S. stocks staged an ebullient rally with the assertion that the allied military force had gained ground in their assault on Iraq.

The Dow Jones industrial average soared 111 points. The long-feared threat to oil supplies suddenly disappeared, and crude prices crashed.

By nightfall Thursday in New York — about three hours after the markets closed — it was clear that cause for celebration was premature. Iraq launched missiles into Israel. Japan's markets started tumbling.

Confidence ebbed and reality began to set in: Like most wars, this one could be long, unpredictable and jarring to skittish financial markets and an

already ailing U.S. economy.

"If the trend of military success is established I think the market should improve some more and stabilise," American Stock Exchange Chairman James Jones said. "But you can't predict wars."

Some economists still predict that a short war would bolster consumer confidence and energise spending by eliminating paralyzing uncertainty.

Others say the recession-bound U.S. economy has bigger hurdles to clear than war, such as disastrous real estate deals, tight credit, failing banks and decade-low consumer confidence.

"I don't know of anybody who is going to go out and buy a new car or replace the carpeting because the war is going well," said Donald Straszheim, chief economist with Merrill Lynch and Co.

"Overall economic prospects for the first half of 1991 aren't good and haven't changed in the last couple of days" since the war began, he said.

Straszheim forecasts that the government this week will report a three per cent to four per cent decline in gross national product, the total value of the nation's output of goods and services, in the fourth quarter of 1990. That would be the worst performance since the 1981-82 recession.

One popular and — until the end of last week — oft-repeated assumption about the war to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait and its wealth-producing oil fields is that it would be brief.

The first day's reaction on Wall Street supported that belief. Iraq's attack on Israel punctured it.

"I think anyone who presumes that this is going to be over in a few days or a few weeks fails to account for the relatively tenuous attitude of Middle Easterners," said Kenneth Fisher, who heads an investment management firm under his name in Woodside, California.

For U.S. markets, the war presents an unusual situation. Most of the fighting so far —

including the original missile assault on Israel and a second one a day later — has occurred early morning Middle East time, when American markets are closed.

So trading patterns are being set overseas, beginning in Tokyo or London, long before the opening bells ring in New York. That means New York may build a whole day's worth of trading on assumptions that get overturned within hours of the close.

For traders in the oil pits who lost millions during the crash in crude prices that followed the first air raids on Baghdad, the lessons were sobering. New York Mercantile Exchange traders expect some firms to go out of business after the collapse erased \$40 billion from the value of the world's inventory of crude oil.

"You're going to have people very reluctant to jump on this bandwagon again," said Rodney Dow, president of the oil trading firm Dow International Energy Corp. "They are shellshocked."

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Sunday, January 20, 1991			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	655.0	655.8	
Pound Sterling	1294.8	1302.6	
Deutschmark	443.5	446.2	
Swiss franc	528.2	531.4	
French franc	130.4	131.2	
Japanese yen (for 100)	301.9	304.9	
Dutch guilder	393.4	395.8	
Swedish crown	118.4	119.1	
Italian lira (for 100)	59.0	59.4	
Belgian franc (for 10)	215.5	216.8	

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European car market seen headed for slowdown

PARIS (R) — The European car market will continue to shrink in 1991, but healthy demand in eastern Germany will temper the slowdown and sales should pick up by the end of the year, analysts and car makers say.

The first quarter of 1991 could prove the toughest for car makers, who enjoyed five years of strong growth in European sales before a modest, one per cent downturn last year.

Manufacturers foresee a more dramatic slowdown than analysts, but both camps agree eager buyers in former East Germany could brake the decline.

"Sales in former East Germany will strengthen European sales by about two per cent beginning this year," said Cyrille Constans-Gavarry, managing director of the Paris-based Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches en Economie (CETREC).

Consulting firm DRI/McGraw Hill projects 25,000 new vehicles will be sold in eastern Germany.

"Even if former East Germany does not absorb as many new vehicles, its purchases of used cars will help clean out inventories in western Germany, which will benefit from this in-draught," Constans-Gavarry said.

A spokesman for France's state-owned Regie Nationale des Usines Renault estimated the European market would shrink by between 2.5 and three per cent in 1991, with the decline

concentrated in the first four months.

Peugeot S.A. projects European car sales will drop about 3.5 per cent in 1991 to 12.82 million units.

Echoing Renault, Frederic Saint-Geours, managing director of Automobiles Peugeot, said the downturn would resemble "an upside-down circumflex accent" because after a falloff really in 1991, sales would climb back by the end of the year to their levels of late 1990.

Peugeot officials describe 1991 as a year of transition that could pave the way to a resurgence in 1992 and 1993.

Raymond Ravelin, president of the French Automobile Manufacturers Association, also foresees a 3.5 per cent contraction in the market.

Umberto Agnelli, president of Fiat Auto S.p.A., has said the downturn in sales could reach seven per cent.

The prospect of firm demand in Germany explains why Carl Hahn, president of Volkswagen A.G., considers himself "extremely optimistic in the medium term." He has predicted European sales would remain at "an extremely high level, despite some technical adjustments in the range of one or two per cent."

With the stimulus of new demand, Germany could distinguish itself from its neighbours, as it did between 1987 and 1989 when its market

remained stagnant while sales soared elsewhere in western Europe.

Analysts attributed the estimated one per cent decline in 1990 European sales — after a 32 per cent runup over the five preceding years — to the sluggish performance in Britain and Spain, where sales have fallen 12 per cent and six per cent, respectively.

They predicted sales would stabilise in Britain in 1991 and fall another five per cent in Spain, while the slowdown would spread to Italy and France.

CETREC and the Bureau d'Information et de Previsions Economiques (BIFE), a private forecasting unit, project a three per cent shrinkage in the French market. DRI forecast a four per cent contraction, while Peugeot sees a 5.5 per cent drop.

Some analysts said the Italian market was expected to experience a similar downturn, although DRI forecast a contraction of as much as eight per cent.

As for European car makers' shares of the market, a specialist with a large French bank predicted Peugeot would strengthen its hold on third place and even gain ground on Fiat.

First-place Volkswagen would benefit from economic and political reforms in eastern Europe, dimming Peugeot's chances of realising its goal of becoming Europe's foremost car maker by 1993, the expert said.

Occidental Petroleum plans \$2b restructuring

LOS ANGELES (R) — Occidental Petroleum has announced aggressive plans to return to its oil and gas roots with a \$2 billion restructuring plan, ending the company's dramatic diversification under late chairman Armand Hammer.

The company said it would cut its dividend by 40 per cent and reduce its \$8.8 billion debt by \$3 billion through asset sales.

Occidental, a conglomerate with interests ranging from chemicals to meat processing and film production, said it wants to "sell assets that no longer fit with the company's business strategy."

Chairman and chief executive officer Ray Irani acknowledged the difficulty of restructuring Occidental in the current recessionary climate.

"We are keenly aware of the lack of liquidity in the marketplace, but we have some very valuable assets which are of interest to serious buyers with the ability to pay cash," Irani said.

Under the restructuring, Occidental will cut its generous quarterly dividend, considered sacrosanct under Hammer, to 25 cents per share from 62.5 cents. Analysts said the cut will allow Occidental to pump money into oil and gas exploration and production, where it has traditionally excelled.

TODAY AT

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155
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Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420
ROBO COB "2"
Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144
Two Moon Junction
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema **NIJOU** Tel: 675571
Noor Al Sharif/Mahmoud Yassin/Shahira/Saffiyah Omar
in
Night and Traitors
(Arabic)
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238
KARIM ABU SHAQRA and AL AMIRA AL SAGHIRA
in
SHAME ON YOU, RUSTUM
Arabic
Show: 12:30, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:45 p.m.

E. Europe faces banking challenge

PRAGUE (R) — Reform-minded eastern European countries must establish Western-style banking systems as a precondition for shifting to market economies, bankers from both East and West have said.

A functioning banking system is crucial to privatisation — the single most important reform — which promises to transfer virtually the entire region's economy from state hands to entrepreneurs and shareholders in the next few years.

"Reorganisation of the banking system must be given a special priority in the countries of Eastern Europe," Guenther Schmidt-Weyland, managing board member of Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank, said.

"Efficient domestic financial markets are the prerequisite for whatever these countries may aspire to," he told an international management forum in Prague.

Bohumil Studynka, a top Czechoslovak economic official who serves as deputy minister in the office of Prime Minister Marian Calfa, echoed Schmidt-

Weyland's remarks.

"There's no discussion that banks are the ones that have to take the lead in this (economic reform) process," he said.

Under the communist model of banking, central banks had a monopoly of commercial banking while a few specialised agencies handled areas such as foreign trade and personal banking.

The trend now is to set up a two-tier banking system, in which the central bank has true central bank responsibilities for monetary policy and the currency, while

its commercial activities are transferred to one or more new commercial banks.

Banking monopolies are ended at the same time, allowing new banks to open, existing specialised institutions to enter commercial banking, and commercial banks to move into the specialised areas.

The country furthest down this road is Hungary, where 40 or 50 banks have taken root since its banking reform began in 1987 while the country was under Communist Party rule.

Thousands in Moscow denounce Gorbachev over Baltics killings

MOSCOW (R) — Tens of thousands of protesters chanting "dictatorship will not pass" and denouncing President Mikhail Gorbachev over bloodshed in the Baltics massed under the walls of the Kremlin Sunday.

"Hangmen out of the Kremlin," "Down with the Communist Party," the throngs chanted as an orator read a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin proclaiming ordinary people if united could halt a return "to the old order."

Reuter reporters at the scene said thousands more demonstrators were flooding into the Manezh Square to join the rally — which comes at a time of high political tension — in a huge display of strength by radical reformers.

Simultaneously, in the far south of the Soviet Union, huge crowds of mourners filed through the streets of the Azerbaijani capital of Baku in memory of more than 100 people killed when the Soviet army seized control of the city exactly a year ago.

Yury Afanasyev, a parliamentary deputy and fierce critic of the Soviet president, told the

Moscow rally: "We are here to say a decisive no to the reactionary policy of Gorbachev and his team," the crowds chanted: "out out!"

Afanasyev said the demonstration was perhaps the largest in the capital by non-Communists since the 1917 October Revolution.

As they marched from the city's ring road down to Manezh Square on the edge of Red Square, the protesters chanted: "Hands off Lithuania" where last weekend 14 people died in a Soviet army operation that sparked a major political crisis.

Waving above the throng and the heads of children carried on their fathers' shoulders were the flags of the three Baltic republics — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — which are seeking to regain their pre-war independence from the Soviet Union.

Home-made banners carried by the crowds read "freedom is stronger than bullets" and "Lithuania today — Russia tomorrow."

Only small units of police looked on, without intervening. In his message read by senior aide Gennady Bubilis from the

steps of the Moscow Hotel just 200 metres from the Kremlin's red-brick walls, Yeltsin declared:

"The danger of dictatorship about which key leaders of our society have warned is becoming a reality."

Gorbachev — seven of whose more liberal advisers have been excluded from a new executive team — and his colleagues had "practically rejected the former political policies and are openly supporting reactionary forces," the message declared.

There was no report on the rally by the Soviet News Agency TASS, or Moscow Radio's main services more than two hours after it began.

Radio Russia said its teleprinters carrying domestic news "have been mysteriously switched off."

Critics say Gorbachev, who has signalled since the start of the Gulf war Thursday that he is maintaining his policy of cooperation with the West, effectively backed his army's action in the Baltics by refusing to condemn it.

But allies of the Kremlin chief, who has condemned Iraqi

President Saddam Hussein as the guilty party for the Middle East conflict, say he is alarmed at the tension mounting in the country.

"The president is a supporter of political dialogue. He is seeking a way out. But one thing is obvious — someone is trying to blame him for everything," said Anatoly Karpachev of the Communist Party newspaper Pravda.

Aides to the 59-year-old Yeltsin, Gorbachev's main political rival and one-time colleague in the party politburo, said security worries kept him from the rally. Yeltsin says there have already been some attempts on his life.

The size of the turnout for Sunday's rally — varying estimates by foreign reporters at 80,000 to over 200,000 — appeared to underline the polarisation of Soviet society amid mounting economic as well as political crisis.

On Saturday, hard-liners calling for strong central authority to be restored and also supporting Iraq in the Gulf conflict also staged a rally — but they only attracted around 1,000 people.

Many countries begin to worry after Iraq calls for attacks

By the Associated Press

WORRIES about possible attacks by Iraqi sympathisers remained high in many countries despite Israel's apparent decision not to retaliate immediately against a second Iraqi missile attack Saturday.

Explosions and other violence appeared light despite a call from Baghdad for Muslims and Arabs to attack Western targets around the world.

The call was echoed in some other Muslim countries.

In Pakistan, a bomb ripped through a crowded theatre in Rawalpindi just before showtime Saturday, killing five people and injuring 48 others. No one claimed responsibility immediately.

In the Philippines, a bomb exploded Saturday near a U.S. government library, killing one person and injuring an Iraqi student. An Iraqi passport was found near the scene, police said.

The United States and other coalition members fear Israel's entry into the Gulf war could split Arab nations from the anti-Iraq alliance and expand the conflict to a war of Arabs versus Israel.

Japan announced that it would send blankets and portable stoves worth 12 million Japanese yen (\$89,000) to Jordan for the thousands of refugees expected to flee from Iraq.

Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto reportedly was to inform U.S. officials Sunday that Japan will provide \$5 billion as an additional contribution to the U.S.-organised multinational forces against Iraq.

Iraq's call for Muslims around the world to unite against the "unjust war" by attacking Western interests came on the heels of the launch of a second round of Scud-style missiles at Israel on Saturday.

In Algeria, the ruling party called for Arab states to join Iraq in the war.

In Nigeria, a conservative Muslim leader urged solidarity with Iraq in a Saturday night speech. But the government vowed to crush any attacks on U.S. or other Western facilities.

Jordan's Parliament also strongly denounced allied attacks on Iraq and called on Arab and Islamic nations to strike out against the United States and its allies in the war.

Britain's Foreign Office warned Britons not to travel to 23 countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East because of danger related to the Gulf war.

The Philippines, meanwhile, increased security Sunday after the apparent failed bombing attempt and the U.S. embassy warned Americans to be alert for attacks.

Libyan leader Col. Moammar Qadhafi said he would not advocate attacks in support of Iraq.

In Lebanon, the entire staff of the U.S. embassy in Beirut fled to Cyprus because of fears of attacks. Foreign Ministry officials said.

U.S. authorities in Bangkok said they had received a "credible" threat of imminent attack against U.S., Israeli, British and Australian targets there, including airlines.

Airports, military bases, mosques and synagogues across the United States tightened security.

In Italy, Interior Minister Vincenzo Scotti said seven Iraqis had been expelled this week and three others told to leave the country. Two people thought to be Palestinians were detained, he said.

Scotti said 28,000 soldiers had been mobilised to help police counter possible attacks. Escorts were increased for diplomats and others considered at risk, and security was stepped up at sports stadiums, he said.

Greece, Belgium and Pakistan expelled Iraqi diplomats.

In Jakarta, armed forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Huriyadi Purwasaputra said authorities were ready to protect all foreigners staying in Indonesia, an overwhelmingly Muslim nation.

A package containing explosives was found at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Jakarta Friday.

Police in New York City reported they have investigated an average of 150 bomb scares per day — ten times the average — since Tuesday.

Chinese Premier Li Peng, whose nation abstained from the United Nations vote sanctioning military force to get Iraq out of Kuwait, appealed to "all parties involved in the Gulf war to exercise the greatest restraint and prevent the escalation of war," the Chinese News Agency, Xinhua, reported.

Australia summoned Iraqi Charge d'Affaires, Sadd Omran, to hear a government protest.

Iraq's seven diplomats had already been restricted to a 50-kilometre radius of the embassy in Canberra.

Anti-war protests around the world continued.

Tens of thousands of people marched through major Australian cities demanding an end to the war and the recall of the

navy's task force in the Middle East. Many of the protests were the largest since the Vietnam War era.

Smaller demonstrations were staged in front of the U.S. embassy in Tokyo and the U.S. unofficial diplomatic mission in Taipei, where one protester was arrested.

On Friday, pro-Iraq demonstrators turned out in force. In Mauritania, soldiers and police fired tear gas to disperse about 20,000 demonstrators, and tens of thousands of fundamentalists marched in Algeria.

In southern Lebanon, about 15,000 marchers chanted, "Saddam, Saddam, wipe out Israel," as they paraded through Sidon Friday.

"Saddam, use gas. Saddam, use chemicals," they pleaded.

Anti-war protesters who burned the American flag and blocked military bases around the country were countered by demonstrators who waved the flag in a show of support for U.S. troops in the Middle East.

Thousands of protesters gathered Saturday at Lafayette Park across from the White House where they listened to speakers denouncing the U.S. military action.

More than 1,600 protesters have been arrested nationwide since war broke out early Thursday.

In San Francisco, 48 demonstrators were arrested Friday at the Presidio, headquarters of the 6th U.S. army overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge.

There also were arrests in various cities across the country. In Minneapolis, about 400 demonstrators watched as an American flag was hurled into a burning trash container.

In San Francisco, 2,000 anti-war protesters gathered in the city's United Nations Plaza Friday evening.

Police in Bloomington, Indiana, arrested 91 anti-war demonstrators after they blocked the entrance to a military recruiting station with body bags containing protesters.

In New York, people screaming "no blood for oil" blocked entrances to a federal building and 36 arrests were made.

Authorities in Eugene, Oregon, were investigating the Thursday night firebombing of a military reserve training centre. Six people were arrested in Corvallis, Oregon, for blocking the entrance to a Marine Corps office.

In Tucson, Arizona, 11 anti-war protesters were arrested for blocking the street in front of the federal building.

World Muslims gather in Bangladesh

DHAKA (AP) — About 500,000 Muslims from at least 20 countries gathered in the industrial town of Tongi Saturday for a 3-day religious conference.

The Muslims prayed for an end to the Gulf war and for peace and progress in the Muslim ummah, or community.

Delegates from Iraq and Kuwait did not attend the conference because of the fighting. Abdul Mukhiat Ahmad, one of the organisers of the conference

said. The conference is sponsored by Taghlig Jamaat, a non-political Muslim organisation based in New Delhi, and is entirely devoted to theology.

Organisers said the Muslim gathering is second in size only to the Hajj, the annual Islamic pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca.

Last year, about 2 million Muslims attended the confer-

ence and the same number are expected by the final day of this year's conference, said Sanwar Hussain, one of the gathering's organisers.

He said thousands of Muslims from Bangladesh braved cold weather to trek to Tongi, 22 kilometres north of Dhaka. He said the gathering has assumed special significance because of the attack by allied forces on Iraq.

U.S., Soviets try to unravel knots in arms treaty

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soviet and U.S. negotiators will make a final effort to agree on a treaty reducing stockpiles of long-range nuclear weapons. The pact is to be signed at a Moscow summit next month if U.S.-Soviet relations aren't further strained.

The Soviets held meetings early this week with State Department experts. U.S. officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity told the Associated Press Saturday.

The Soviet actions in the Baltic republics and a broad retreat from democratic reforms have prompted concerns that President George Bush might reconsider whether he should attend the scheduled Feb. 11-13 talks with Mikhail Gorbachev.

But White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Friday after Bush spoke by telephone to Gorbachev about the Gulf crisis that the summit was still on.

U.S. officials have said they're confident the treaty can be finished in time for the summit.

Alexei Obukhov and Reginald Bartholomew, the under secretary of state for international security affairs, will lead the negotiators as they try to reach agreement on the strategic arms reduction treaty.

Several provisions in the start pact are unsettled, including procedures for monitoring production of solid rocket fuel and missile assembly plants.

Other thorny issues include a Soviet demand to inspect U.S. B-2 bomber plants and how much information from missile flight tests will be exchanged.

Bush had said all along he wouldn't hold summit unless the treaty was ready to be signed. But with U.S.-Soviet relations on the upswing, he announced last month he would go to Moscow to meet with Gorbachev.

Lithuanian TV stations battle to win viewers

KAUNAS, USSR (AP) — In a battle for Lithuania's airwaves, Soviet officials have disguised an army colonel as a civilian anchorman broadcasting from the conquered television tower and Saturday began live coverage of the Gulf war.

The occupied television station is competing against a separatist facility in the second Lithuanian city of Kaunas, and a tiny station set up by nationalists in the parliament building in Vilnius.

The main television station was seized by Soviet paratroopers in a brutal assault on Jan. 13 in which 14 people died. Within half an hour of the Soviet assault, round-the-clock coverage had begun at a small, little-used auxiliary television station in Kaunas, 100 kilometres west of the capital, which formerly produced only a few hours of broadcasting a week.

In Vilnius, nationalists set up a makeshift television transmitter in the parliament — which is barricaded against Soviet attack — to broadcast parliamentary proceedings and announcements to the city. Its signal, however, is weak and unable to reach beyond the city limits.

At the occupied station, which has a powerful transmitter that can reach the entire republic, announcer Edmundas Kaspervicius anchors the main news programmes.

Slovenia, Croatia prepare for expected assault

BELGRADE (AP) — Slovenia and Croatia have defied army warnings to disarm local defence militias and prepared for an expected military assault by federal forces.

However, Yugoslavia's federal presidency moved the deadline for the two republics to disarm "illegal paramilitary forces" from midnight Saturday to midnight Monday, the Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug, reported.

The terse Tanjug report said the presidency, which is in charge of the Communist-dominated armed forces, extended the deadline "following a Croatian request." It did not elaborate further.

Slovenia and Croatia have defended their defence militias were legal.

Slovenian and Croatian authorities, who ousted Communists in spring elections, put their militias on highest alert, and citizens began stocking up food supplies, according to officials and media reports from both republics.

The two states seek more self-rule within the fractious Yugoslav Federation of six republics and fear the army will crack down while the world is preoccupied with the Gulf war.

"The Yugoslav army has not defined which illegal forces they have in mind," Janez Jansa, Slovenia's minister in charge of militia units, said by telephone. "Our territorial defence forces are not illegal by any means."

Stipe Mesic, Croatia's representative in the federal presidency, said at a meeting Saturday

that Croatia is "determined to keep its defence in its own hands."

He added that the federal "army cannot execute a military coup."

"To all those who want to live in a (Communist) system we wish the best of luck — but without us," Mesic said.

Ethnic Serbs in western Croatia, in a state of virtual rebellion against Croatian authorities since August, are said to have complied with the order and returned most of the weapons they seized from police arsenals last year.

Milan Brezak, deputy interior minister of Croatia, said the Serbs "have formed the only illegal armed groups that exist in the republic." Croatia's Territorial Defence Militias are legal, he said in a telephone interview.

Croatia's Interior Ministry said in a statement that 228 rifles, 20 machine guns, 25 sub-machine guns, 76 handguns, dozens of hand grenades and thousands of rounds of ammunition had been returned to police stations by Saturday.

Reports from the Serbian province of Kosovo say ethnic Albanians, who seek more autonomy from the largest Yugoslav republic, have refused to give up weapons they allegedly possess illegally.

Croatia and Slovenia advocate turning Yugoslavia into a loose confederation of allied states.

Communist-ruled Serbia and its ally, Montenegro, want to maintain the centralised federation. They are supported by the federal army.

Mongolia looks West with visit to U.S.

PEKING (R) — Mongolia, shackled to the Soviet Union for seven decades of Communist rule, looks West this week with an unprecedented visit to Washington by President Punsalmaa Ochiibat.

Mongolian officials in Peking, where Ochiibat was staying Sunday on his way to the United States, confirmed the visit would go ahead despite the Gulf war.

The first Mongolian president to visit the United States, he is due to meet President George Bush in the White House Wednesday. Officials declined to specify the dates for his trip.

For Mongolia's two million people living in a land of steppes and mountains equal in size to Western Europe, the visit is of great symbolic importance.

Ochiibat, 48, chose Washington as his first Western venue after taking office last March and steering Mongolia away from 70 years of political domination by its giant neighbour, the Soviet Union.

Moscow will complete its withdrawal of Soviet troops from Mongolia in 1992.

Mongolia's ruling Communists, the People's Revolutionary Party, survived challenges from newly formed opposition groups in the country's first democratic elections last July and are committed to radical capitalist-style reforms.

Whereas the all-conquering Mongolian, Genghis Khan, swept west to create the world's biggest land empire in the 13th century, Ochiibat goes in search of loans and investment.

He leaves an economy in crisis. As in the Soviet Union, residents of his capital, Ulan Bator, queue for hours for food and basic necessities as the government attempts the painful transition from central planning to a market controlled economy.

Prices of many commodities doubled in one fell swoop last Wednesday as did salaries of state sector workers.

Mongolians who had their savings in state banks saw their deposits doubled overnight. Savings stashed under mattresses effectively halved in value.

Ration coupons for basic

foods, including tea and vodka, have been distributed.

"People who didn't have their money in banks are really upset," said one opposition party member contacted in Ulan Bator Sunday.

Food rationing was a relief as at least residents were guaranteed some supplies, she said.

Mongolia is saddled with gigantic debts — about 9.7 billion roubles (\$16 billion) owed to the Soviet Union.

"With the state of our economy we cannot help in the Gulf war," the opposition party member said. Many Mongolians supported the attack launched on Iraq last week by the U.S.-led multinational forces, she said.

During his Washington visit, Ochiibat will sign two agreements on trade and scientific and technological cooperation with the United States. The two sides will establish a joint council to boost bilateral trade.

Mongolia and the United States established diplomatic relations in 1987. Secretary of State James Baker visited Ulan Bator last August.

Costner, Dances With Wolves winners at Golden Globes

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — The epic western Dances With Wolves triumphed at the 1991 Golden Globe Awards, winning three trophies.

Kevin Costner's first directorial effort was named Best Dramatic Motion Picture. He took the directing trophy and Michael Blake won for Best Screenplay.

The romantic comedy Green Card was chosen Best Comic or Musical Motion Picture and its French star, Gerard Philipe, was honored as Best Actor in that category.

Julia Roberts won Best Actress in a Musical or Comic Motion Picture for Pretty Woman. Kathy Bates took the Best Dramatic Actress trophy for her portrayal as an obsessed fan of a romance writer in Misery.

Jeremy Irons, starring in Reversal of Fortune as Klaus Von Bulow, was named Best Dramatic Actor.

The Best Foreign Language Film Globe went to France's Cyrano De Bergerac, which stars Depardieu in the title role.

The Godfather Part III led nominations in movie categories with seven, but came away empty-handed.

The black-tie crowd gathered under a cloud of war for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Robin Williams, Faye Dunaway and Costner passed through metal detectors with other celebrities, bomb-sniffing dogs inspected photographers' gear and security guards were stationed at doors.

"I know we all pray for peace tonight," host Dana Delany said in opening the show.

NBC's Cheers was a big television winner. Kirstie Alley won for Best Comic Television Actress, Ted Danson for Best Actor in a Comic or Musical Series and the show itself for Best Musical or Comic TV Series.

David Lynch's quirky television drama Twin Peaks won three prizes, including Best Dramatic Series, Best Television Actor for Kyle MacLachlan and Best Supporting Television Actress for Piper Laurie.

Charles Durning won Best Supporting TV Actor for The Kennedys of Massachusetts. The war-themed Decoration Day won for Best TV Mini-Series or Movie.

In movie competition, Whoopi Goldberg was honored for Best Supporting Actress for her depiction of a low-rent psychic in Ghost. Bruce Davison won Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of a compassionate friend to his dying lover in the AIDS drama Longtime Companion.

Jack Lemmon got the special Cecil B. DeMille Award for contribution to entertainment.

The Globes are considered an early indicator of how the Academy Awards may go later in the year.

Rocker Jon Bon Jovi collected a Globe for Best Original Song for Blaze of Glory from Young Guns II. Best original score went to The Sheltering Sky.

Susan Sarandon, nominated for Best Dramatic Actress for her depiction of an earthy waitress in White Palace, announced that because of the Gulf war, she would not attend.

"I am sorry I am unable to join my colleagues at the Golden Globe Awards. I am honoured to have been nominated," Miss Sarandon said in a statement.

"However, due to the war in the Gulf, I feel it is best to remain close to home where I will continue my work with the military family support network in its efforts for peace and to

bring our troops safely home."

An opening production number, which was to be performed by singer Neil Carter, was canceled "due to recent world events," the Hollywood Foreign Press Association said.

Andy Garcia, Macaulay Culkin, the young star of Home Alone, Bruce Willis and his wife, Demi Moore, Anjelica Huston, Al Pacino and Jeremy Irons were among the stars who attended the ceremony.

Unlike the Oscars, the 86 voters of the association split films into two categories, dramatic and musical or comic. In all, there are 13 categories for motion pictures and 11 awards, somewhat less closely watched, for television.

Among the nominations for The Godfather Part III was Best Dramatic Movie and Best Dramatic Actor for Pacino. Francis Ford Coppola was nominated as Best Director and was a co-nominee, along with Mario Puzo, for Best Writer.

Another mafia drama, Goodfellas, got five nominations including Best Dramatic Movie. Dances With Wolves got six nominations.

Man goes on trial for stealing rare books

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Over the years, authorities found Stephen Carrie Blumberg snooping suspiciously in library stacks and nabbed him with piles of stolen books. But it took a paid informant to uncover what the soft-spoken loner was getting away with. The information led Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officials to Blumberg's house in the southeast Iowa town of Ottumwa, where they seized the nation's largest-ever cache of stolen rare books and manuscripts, a 19-ton cache valued up to \$20 million. Blumberg goes on trial Wednesday.

Charges of interstate transportation of stolen property, conspiracy and possession of stolen property. Of the estimated 25,000 books and papers that were recovered, some were rare and priceless, others ordinary and worthless. Blumberg has had nothing to say since his arrest March 26. Two Minnesota men who pleaded guilty to interstate transportation of stolen property and the informant, who was paid \$50,000 by the FBI for evidence leading to the treasures, have agreed to testify against him. Don Nickerson, Blumberg's lawyer, stated that there would be no plea bargain, saying "we're definitely going to trial. It will be up to the jury to decide." A team of book experts has sifted through the books to determine which were stolen, then match them with their owners. Prosecutor Lin Read of the U.S. attorney's office in Des Moines said none of the books has been returned because all are needed as evidence.

Man in wheelchair robs bank

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A 75-year-old man in a wheelchair who said he robbed a bank of \$70 to buy heart medicine — and claimed anyone in the same position would have done the same — has pleaded innocent and allowed to remain free. Police say William Hart threatened to blow a downtown branch of the HomeFed Bank with a bottle of nitroglycerin that turned out to be heart medicine. U.S. Magistrate Roger Curtis McKee thanked Hart for voluntarily appearing for arraignment Wednesday and allowed him to remain free without bail. After the plea, Hart was ordered to be back in court on Jan. 29. McKee also told Hart that he didn't have to be booked, which includes fingerprinting in the courthouse basement, because "that's going to be an imposition, quite frankly." "Thank you," Hart said, his words slurred and his right side partially paralysed by a stroke. Officials have not yet decided whether to prosecute Hart, said Maria Arroyo-Tabin, chief of the crime division at the U.S. attorney's office in San Diego. Before the hearing, the retired merchant seaman contended he hadn't done anything wrong. "Anybody under the same conditions would have done the same thing," he said.

U.S. police officer convicted of murder, robbery

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — A former police officer was convicted for first-degree murder and five bank robberies committed by the so-called "ninja bandit." Matthew Griggin, 27, could be sentenced to death for the April 3, 1989, murder of Michael K. Howard, 33. The security guard was shot to death when he interrupted an attempted car theft in an apartment-house parking lot. Griffin was convicted Wednesday of five armed robbery counts stemming from bank holdups in 1989 in Albuquerque that netted more than \$35,000. The robberies were dubbed the "ninja" bank robberies because the robber wore black in the style of ancient Japanese assassins. The murder conviction is subject to automatic appeal to the state supreme court. Griffin faces sentences totalling more than 60 years on the other counts. Griffin, a four-year veteran of the force, was placed on administrative leave from the department in July 1989 after his arrest. He was fired later that month. Prosecutors called Griffin a liar who used phony names to rent cars and motel rooms in order to keep authorities off his trail. The defense attorney said he was shocked and disappointed by the verdicts.